



## BUSINESS/B1

**Tokyo lifts freeze on P4B in grants, loans to Manila**

## SPORTS/A23

**Mavs pull ahead of Suns with Game 3 victory**



## NEWS/A16

**Pilita, Francis M join Ryan as judges of RP 'Idol'**

## ACROSS/A13

**GMA puts Boracay under administrative control of PTA**

### Soldier-athletes tapped to guard Magdalo men

By Nikko Dizon

THE MAGDALO SOLDIERS will have to karate-chop their way, shoot hoops, or bend it like Beckham to escape their security escorts who happen to be strapping soldier-athletes.

SOLDIER/A4

Tuesday, May 30, 2006

★★★

4 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 171 P18

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# PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

### RP doctors to fly 12 tons of supplies to Indonesia

THE PHILIPPINES WILL SEND A 20-MEMBER medical contingent with 12 tons of supplies and medicine to Indonesia where a deadly earthquake on Saturday left more than 5,100 dead and 200,000 others homeless.

Emergency aid has begun pouring into areas devastated by the 6.3-magnitude earthquake in Indonesia, but officials said supplies were not being delivered fast enough to victims who begged

RP DOCTORS/A6

## 60 Metro schools, hospitals, buildings vulnerable to big quake

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE PHILIPPINE ORTHOPEDIC Center, PhilSports Arena (formerly Ultra) and the Batasan Hills Elementary School are among the 60 buildings in danger of sustaining "life-threatening" damage should a major earthquake hit Metro Manila, according to the Task Force on Building Inspection of the Department of Public

Works and Highways.

The task force also identified the Bicutan Interchange in Parañaque City as among the six bridges in Metro Manila that were recommended for strengthening to increase their chances of withstanding an earthquake.

It released the list of the buildings, mostly public elementary and high schools, to the media two days after a 6.3-magnitude

quake in neighboring Indonesia claimed about 5,100 lives.

To minimize the loss of lives and property in the country, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered civil defense officials to conduct earthquake-preparedness drills in schools, business districts and public places.

"Let us not be alarmed, but by all means let every vulnerable community be prepared to meet

any contingencies whether brought forth by earthquakes, landslides, floods and other natural calamities," the President said.

The Philippines, just like Indonesia, sits on what is commonly referred to as the Pacific "Ring of Fire," a zone of frequent earthquakes and volcanic eruptions that encircles the Pacific Ocean basin.

About five quakes hit the Philippines every day, but few, if any, are felt.

A 4.0-magnitude undersea earthquake hit the Visayas early yesterday, a day after two mild quakes shook parts of the Philippines. Authorities said no damage was expected and the tremors were not related to Indonesia's killer quake.

The Philippine Institute of Vol-

cans and Seismology, or Phivolcs, said the predawn quake's epicenter was 690 km southeast of Manila, off Bohol island.

On Sunday afternoon, a 5.3-magnitude quake struck off the country's northernmost Babuyan Island group. Hours later, a 3.3-magnitude quake rattled Cagayan de Oro City and nearby ar-

60 METRO/A4

## Ex-Red peace adviser killed



LEFTIST leaders Nathanael Santiago (left) and party-list Representatives Joel Virador, Liza Maza, Teodoro Casiño (partly hidden) and Rafael Mariano attend a Makati court hearing on the rebellion case against them with their lawyer Romulo Capulong. (Story on Page A2.)

### Llamas 8th leftist leader shot dead this month

By Job B. Belen  
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

TABACO CITY—A rebel who became a peace adviser met a violent end yesterday.

Sotero Llamas, a former New People's Army leader in Bicol and a consultant to communist rebels negotiating a peace settlement with the government, was shot dead Monday morning while riding in a van here.

His driver was wounded. The assassins escaped.

As in the previous murders of militants, Llamas, known as "Ka Teroy," was shot by two men on a motorcycle.

Colleagues said Llamas's killing reflected how dangerous the times had become even for those who had tried to leave the revolutionary path. (See related story at left.)

NO MORE/A9

EX-RED/A8



DEAD ON ARRIVAL: The body of Sotero "Ka Teroy" Llamas at the Dr. Amando Cope Memorial Hospital in Tabaco City in Albay.

### 2 Abu tipsters share P26-million US prize

TWO FILIPINO INFORMANTS will share a \$500,000-reward (about P26 million) from the US government for a tip that led to the arrest of a terror suspect in Mindanao last year, the US Embassy said yesterday.

Hilarion del Rosario Santos III, the alleged head of the Rajah Solaiman Movement, a group of Christian converts to Islam that has been closely associated with al-Qaida-linked militants, was arrested in Zamboanga City in October last year together with six other suspects.

His group is believed to have links to the Indonesian-based Jamaah Islamiyah and the bandit group Abu Sayyaf, which operates in Mindanao.

The Abu Sayyaf was behind the

bombing of a ferry in Manila on Feb. 27, 2004 that killed 116 people and the simultaneous bombings in Makati, General Santos and Davao cities on Feb. 14, 2005, that left seven dead and 150 wounded.

Jamaah Islamiyah, a group seeking to create an Islamic state in Southeast Asia, was behind the explosion on Aug. 1, 2000, at the Jakarta residence of the Philippine ambassador to Indonesia and the Rizal Day bombings in Metro Manila, also in 2000.

Santos also was connected to plots to attack the US Embassy in Manila and American citizens, the embassy said.

It said the money, to be pre-

2ABU/A4

### No more safe haven, says Left

By Michael Lim Ubac

"IS THE GOVERNMENT OUT TO kill us?"

This was the question posed by Rep. Satur Ocampo, leader of the militant Bayan Muna party-list group, when he heard the news that ex-communist rebel leader Sotero Llamas had been gunned down in Bicol.

Colleagues of Llamas said his

murder showed there was no safe haven even for those who had abandoned the armed struggle.

"The government and the military are really itching to jail and silence us, including even the politically inactive Llamas. They had the strongest motive to silence and kill Llamas," Bayan Muna secretary general Nathanael Santiago said.

Santiago said Llamas had been

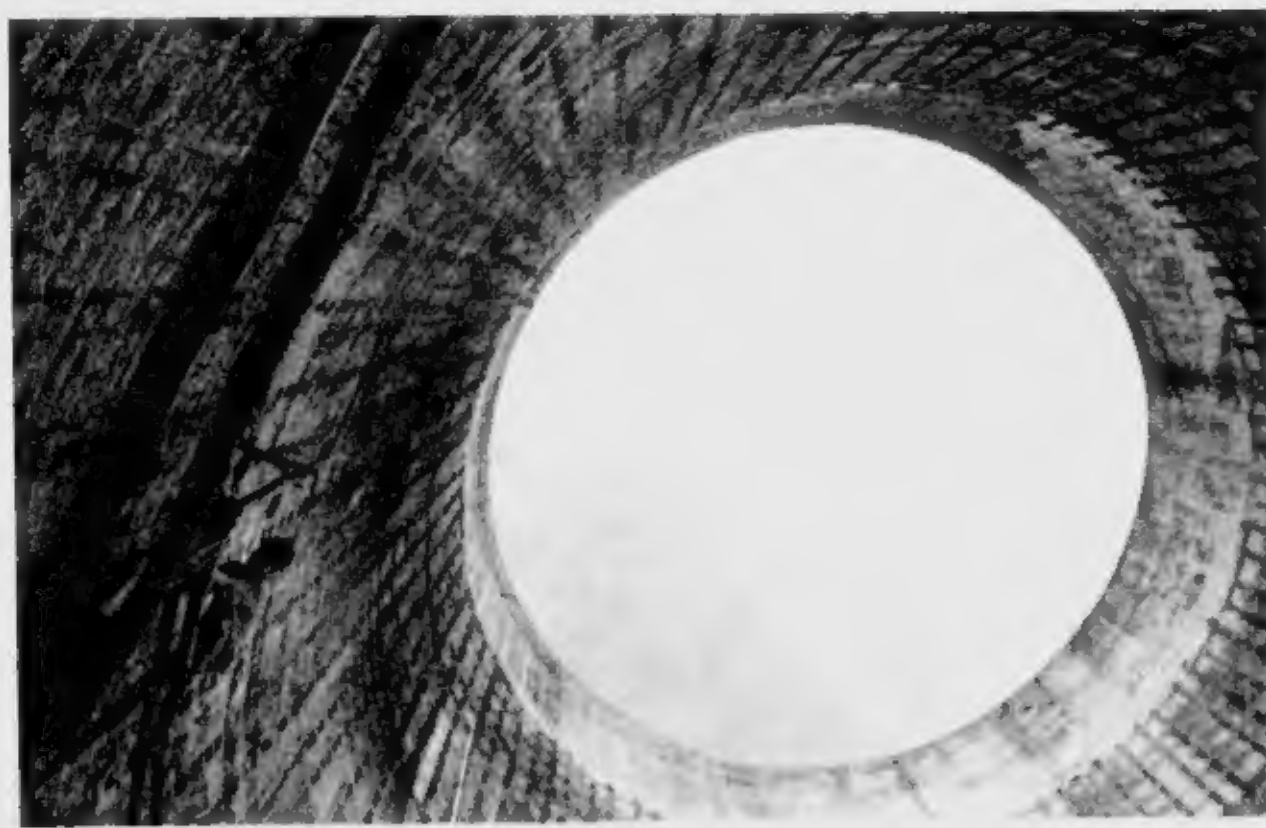
inactive in Bayan Muna and the legal Left since 2003. He blamed the killing on the Arroyo administration.

Ocampo, Santiago and Llamas were among some 50 people the Department of Justice had charged with rebellion in connection with an alleged Left-Right conspiracy to grab power in February.

### SALVAGE MISSION

Laid-off workers of Atlas Consolidated Mining and Development Corp. retrieve materials from inside the crumbling structures at the company's Carmen copper mining site on the outskirts of Toledo City in Cebu. They sell the scrap to earn a living and feed their families.

AFP



### Army kickboxers go after village thugs

By Christian V. Esguerra

NOT LONG AGO, IN A REMOTE barrio in Mindanao, four of the military's toughest "jungle fighters" were handpicked for a special mission—to "neutralize" a small band of rogue men terrorizing the community.

In about a week, all seven targets mysteriously fell, one after the other. Each had a severe neck, rib or spinal injury. All survived but none of them dared pick on the local folk again.

The mission never hit the headlines—which was what the soldiers wanted. But it was a resounding success for the team that had quietly trained in an increasingly popular, albeit brutal, sport—muay thai.

This traditional fighting art form from Thailand, also known as Thai kickboxing, has been steadily re-

placing karate and judo, the erstwhile close-combat method of choice, in the Philippine military's elite forces.

Muay thai is referred to as "the science of eight limbs," as the hands, feet, elbows and knees are all used extensively to inflict maximum damage to an opponent. A master practitioner of muay thai has the ability to execute strikes using eight "points of contact," as opposed to "two points" (fists) in boxing and "four points" (fists, feet) used in the other forms of martial arts.

From 2000 to 2004, selected troops from the Army's 2nd Infantry Division based in Tanay, Rizal, went through separate two-month courses under muay thai expert Zhe Vallega.

The military leadership had got-

ARMY/A4



## WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy/rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY CHONA GALANG FOR INQUIRER/04/07/05

## Second FRONT PAGE

E-mail: pr\_news@inquirer.com.ph

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Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Bolton/Rescued	Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains		Cloudy with Rains
Taguig	Cloudy with Rains		Cloudy with Rains
Lasag	Cloudy with Rains		Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains		Cloudy with Rains
Taguig	Cloudy with Rains		Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains		Cloudy with Rains
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains		Cloudy with Rains

## Barbs fly between lawyers in Batasan 5 hearing

By Jocelyn R. Uy

TENSION FLARED AND VOICES WERE raised between opposing counsel in a Makati court yesterday as the lawyer for five party-list congressmen charged with rebellion accused the prosecution of labeling his clients as communists and "falsely implicating" them in an alleged antigovernment plot.

Defense lawyer Romeo Capulong also accused the prosecution of maligning him by having him identified in the indictment against the so-called Batasan Five and 41 other people as a member of the communist-led National Democratic Front.

"It is a serious violation of my rights and of those who were unjustly and maliciously included in the information," Capulong told Judge Reinato Quilala.

"Is the court aware that the labeling of militant progressive groups precedes killing in this country?" Capulong added, referring to the string of largely unsolved killings of leftist militants and other people associated with the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army.

Cutting off Capulong's tirade, Senior State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco asked the defense attorney to show a "little ethics."

"You are unethical," Capulong shot back. "I will charge all of you for disbarment and perjury. This is going too far."

The hearing was originally scheduled to tackle separate motions filed by the defense and the prosecution prior to the case going on trial.

Capulong, whose clients include Representatives Satur Ocampo, Teodoro Casiño and Joel Virador of Bayan Muna, Rafael Mariano of Anakpawis and Liza Maiza of Gabriela, told reporters afterwards that he would file charges of perjury, "incriminatory machinations" and libel against Velasco and other prosecutors.

He said they had certified to having personally examined the complainants and their witnesses, but Judge Jenny Lind Aldecoa-Delorio, who had initially handled the case before inhibiting herself, had ruled that the certification was false.

But Velasco shrugged off the accusation, telling reporters that Capulong was dishing out propaganda.

Overhearing Velasco's remarks, Capulong hollered: "Sir! ullo. Among nag-po-propaganda? (You're crazy. What propaganda?)"

Meanwhile, Maiza and Casiño described the charge sheet as "virtually a death list" put together by the administration to silence dissenters.

They said they feared that yesterday's killing of Sotero Llamas, a former Bayan official, and the disappearance of Philip Limjoco in Pampanga last week, meant that they had already been judged by the government's "death squad." (See story on Page A1)

## No 'edifice complex' — Bunye

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO YESTERDAY unveiled another high-profile infrastructure project named after her late father but Malacañang was quick to deny it was succumbing to the "edifice complex" that was a hallmark of the Marcos administration.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye scotched speculation that putting the name "Macapagal" on the project was done at the behest of the President.

"I don't think so," he said. "I believe what is important is that we have such an important project. The fact that it is named after a particular person probably is incidental."

President Arroyo led the groundbreaking ceremonies at the "world-class Diosdado Macapagal cruise terminal" in Orion, Bataan, making it the fifth major facility named after either of her parents.

Projects that recall Ms. Arroyo's late parents since she took office in 2001 are the controversial Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard at the Manila Bay reclaimed area; the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (which used to be the airport facility of Clark Air Force Base, now the Clark Special Economic Zone); the Eva Macapagal Super Terminal located at the Manila Port Area adjacent to the Manila Hotel, and the Eva Macapa-

gal road in Nueva Viscaya province.

Critics claim these projects glorifying the sitting President's heritage are reminiscent of the predilection of former President Marcos and First Lady Imelda Marcos to name government-funded structures after themselves and their relatives during their reign. Such facilities eventually numbered in the dozens.

Bunye denied the President was bent on glorifying her name in similar fashion. "I don't think that this is the decision of the President. I would rather think that this is the decision or option of the project proponents."

The President herself in a statement said she was thankful to the people of Bataan for naming the passenger terminal after her father. And at the ceremonies, Bataan Rep. Albert Garcia called Ms. Arroyo's father "a great Filipino."

Bunye said he had no idea why the facilities were being named after the President's father and mother. "This was the decision of the project proponents and those who implemented them," said Bunye.

He also dismissed as without basis the notion that proponents of the Bataan project were hoping to get some kind of accommodation from the President in return for the gesture. "It's just a terminal, it's an important facility," Bunye said.

## Sto. Tomas set to quit, cites stress, workload

By Jerome Aning

LABOR SECRETARY PATRICIA Sto. Tomas confirmed yesterday that she had offered to resign, saying she wanted to work in a less stressful environment and devote more time to her personal well-being.

"I would want to continue working in government but I do not want to work full time," Sto. Tomas told reporters.

The secretary, one of the Cabinet's longest-serving members, said she wanted to "de-stress" herself by writing a book or two, possibly teach, spend more time with her daughter and grandchildren and engage in activities that would improve her health.

"I need some time to rest," she said, adding that she wanted to be able to wake up early, sleep late, not answer phone calls and even take "pilates" lessons, a form of stretching exercises.

She said in another interview that while she still had to submit a resignation, the President agreed that she needed a break.



STO. TOMAS

Asked what she would miss after leaving the department, she said it would be "the work that is too much" and "working late."

The things that gave her much work and stress included the issue on wage increases; strikes; enforcement of labor laws; and overseas Filipino workers who die, are taken hostage or accused of crimes.

Sto. Tomas said she submitted a memorandum to the President early this month asking permission to leave the department. She said, however, that she did not rule out staying a little longer if the President asked her to do

so for as long as her health permitted.

She said she submitted a list of 10 people, including her four undersecretaries, from which the President could choose a successor.

Apart from Undersecretaries Manuel Inson, Danilo Cruz, Carmen Padilla and Romeo Lagman, Sto. Tomas said she also endorsed Mariano Roque, chief of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration; Arthur Yap, chief of the Presidential Management Staff; Cerge Remonde, head of Malacañang's Government Mass Media Group; Court of Appeals Justice Arthur Brion; Mon Ireneta of the Civil Service Commission, and former Sen. Orlando Mercado.

Asked about reports she would be appointed chair of the Development Bank of the Philippines, she replied, "It has not been offered to me and I have not asked for it but it would be a welcome thing if it happened; if that's true, how nice."

She said she also did not want an ambassadorial post because "I do not want to be an OFW."

It has been reported that Sto. Tomas was being eyed as president of the Government Service Insurance System or that she might seek a position in the International Labor Organization or the United Nations Global Commission on Migration. With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

## GMA: Saudis to put up jatropa plant

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO yesterday said that Saudi Aramco had agreed to put up a jatropa processing plant in Mindanao that should boost government efforts to promote the lowly shrub as an alternative fuel source.

The Palace described jatropa as a "drought-resistant perennial shrub whose fruit can be processed into oil that can be refined further into diesel or burned in cooking stoves."

In a visit to Orion, Bataan, the

President disclosed that during her recent state visit to Saudi Arabia, "Saudi Aramco agreed to put up an ethanol distillery and jatropa processing plant so that Mindanao would not lag behind in development."

"I agree that it's a good strategy to have the oil refinery plant in Bataan rather than in Mindanao because an ethanol distillery and jatropa plant would generate more jobs that Mindanao needs," the President said.

The President said Saudi Aramco

could get its supply of jatropa from North Luzon where idle military camps have been converted into jatropa plantations.

The President made the pitch for a jatropa processing plant as she pressed Congress anew for the passage of the proposed Bio-fuel Act that seeks to spur the use of alternative fuels and force 5.2 million registered vehicle owners to use either bioethanol or ethyl alcohol to save on fuel import costs.

Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

### PHILIPPINE RETIREMENT AUTHORITY

PRA Circular No. 01  
12 May 2006  
Series of 2006

SUBJECT: POLICY CHANGES RELATIVE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SPECIAL REDUCED DEPOSIT

In order to liberalize the requirements of the Authority's program and to make it more competitive with the programs of other countries and attractive to prospective foreign retirees, the following changes, pursuant to Resolution No. 24, Series of 2006, of the Board of Trustees, in the rules and regulations of the Philippine Retirement Authority for retiree enrollment in its program are hereby adopted, effective 29 May 2006.

1. **Special Reduced Deposit** - For principal applicants who are applying for Special Resident Retiree Visa, the minimum qualifying deposit is reduced as follows:

AGE	FROM	TO
35-49 years old	US\$75,000.00	US\$50,000.00
50 years and above	US\$50,000.00	US\$20,000.00

2. **Holding Period** - Retirees enrolled under this Program may be allowed to withdraw their deposit for "conversion" into an investment after a holding period of thirty (30) days from the date of the issuance of SRR Visa.

3. **Visatorial Fee** - For every conversion of the retiree's deposit into an investment, the concerned retiree will pay the visatorial fee as follows:

Deposit/s	Annual Visatorial Fee
US\$20,000.00	US\$500.00 or its peso equivalent
US\$50,000.00	US\$750.00 or its peso equivalent

4. **Areas of Investment** - The areas of investments for visa holders under the Special Reduced Deposit Scheme shall be strictly limited to the following:

- Purchase, acquisition and ownership of a condominium unit;
- Long-term lease of house and lot, condominium or townhouse which should not be for a period shorter than 20 years;
- Purchase, acquisition and ownership of golf or country club shares; or
- Investment in shares of stocks of corporations duly registered in the Philippine Stock Exchange

All applications for conversion of deposit shall be submitted to the Board of Trustees for its approval.

5. **Applicability of the Program** - The program is an experimental project for six (6) months and shall apply ONLY to new applicants. Previous SRRV holders CANNOT re-apply for SRRV under this Program.

The Officer-in-Charge, Resident Retiree Servicing Center, shall be responsible for the dissemination of this Circular.

(SGD.) NELSON P. COLLANTES  
General Manager



## STI Gives Recognition to those Who Value Education

Like a broken record, parents would tell their children that the best and only treasure they could leave them is education. Even as many children would brush this off, this would always hold true.

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Parents should never be short-changed when it comes to the education of their children. With this, STI commits to give quality and real life education.

Yearly, STI also gives recognition to parents and students alike who have given importance to education. STI especially gives recognition to students who excelled in academics and/or co-curricular activities.

Last April 26, 2006, STI gave special citations to 38 of its students who graduated for the school year 2005 to 2006. STI gave academic awards to 14 students and other citations such as the Student of the Year Award.

Topping the list of academic awardees was Cherry Lyn M. Fernandez from STI College EDSA-Crossing who graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Science. Fernandez is also a Guaranteed Hire Program (GHP) awardee.

Other GHP awardees include Ishaaq U. Cali (STI College-Quezon Avenue), Ferdinand G. Gualo (STI College-EDSA-Crossing), and Franco T. Robles (STI College-EDSA-Crossing). The three graduated Cum Laude also with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Science.

STI awards the Guaranteed Hire Program to students who have excelled academically. All GHP awardees will get guaranteed jobs from partner-companies of STI.



STI also gave recognition to graduates of Diploma Courses for the school year 2005-2006 led by Joel C. Agumboy (STI College-EDSA-Crossing), who graduated with High Honors with a Diploma in E-Commerce Programming.

STI also gave special recognition to STI Student of the Year awardees Norman R. Carag, (Area and National Level Winner-TESDA from STI College-Balayan), Ishaaq U. Cali (Area and National Level Winner-CHED from STI College-Quezon Ave.), Rothchiel A. De Lima (Area Level Winner, Southern Luzon from STI College-Sta.Cruz), and Patric Ryan C. Lee (Area Level Winner, Mindanao Area from STI College-Davao).



STI graduates posing at this year's commencement exercises.

STI takes pride in all of its graduates who are products of its Enrollment-to-Employment System (ITE System), a complete human resource development approach to education.

There are 9,518 STI students who graduated last school-year across the country. STI has one of the largest school networks with more than 100 campuses nationwide.



**By Philip C. Tubeza**

# Pinay maid gets 10 yrs

The fight escalated during which Aguilar covered La Puebla's face with a pillow until she became unconscious. She then strangled the 27-year-old and placed her body in the bag.

APP

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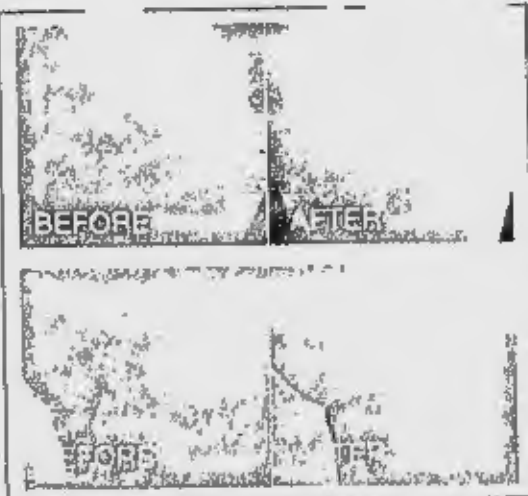
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## women talk:

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# Nothing to fear with antiterror law, say cops

By Luigi A. del Puerto

THE NEED FOR AN antiterror law far outweighs the fear that it could be abused by government security forces, according to the police.

Senators recently expressed their reservations about supporting the antiterror bill after five supporters of ousted President Joseph Estrada claimed they were arrested without warrants and tortured by military agents last week to force them to admit they were part of

a communist hit squad out to assassinate President Macapagal-Arroyo and members of her Cabinet.

"The need for an antiterror law is greater than the fear that this is going to be abused," Philippine National Police spokesperson Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao said yesterday.

"We do not have to wait for a 9/11 to tell us that there is a need for it," he said, adding that current laws were inadequate to address terrorism.

Claims of arbitrary arrests and torture by

the "Erap 5" would remain debatable until the courts decided on this, he added.

"But the need for an antiterror bill is here and now. That's the reason why countries, even advanced countries, have their antiterror bills to address an extraordinary situation," Pagdilao said.

Police favor an antiterror law so they could detain suspected terrorists for longer periods of time. This would give them enough time to investigate and follow up on leads.

Sen. Sergio Osmeña III said he was originally for the antiterror bill but the Erap 5 incident made him have "serious thoughts" about its passage.

The incident showed that it was possible for the government to stretch the limits of the bill to "persecute innocent civilians," Osmeña said.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel said the incident sparked fears that human rights violations could escalate once an antiterror bill was signed into law.

But police said the need for such a law

"cannot be overemphasized."

Past bombings and kidnappings had clearly defined the Philippines as a target for terrorism, Pagdilao said.

And how would the government deal with fears of abuse?

"The legislature should come up with a law that would provide safeguards against abuse," Pagdilao said.

"On the part of the PNP, rest assured that we abide strictly [by] the rules governing arrests... and searches," he added.

## Become Pinoy in Taiwan

FORMER FILIPINOS who have become Taiwanese citizens may reacquire Philippine citizenship without having to report to the Bureau of Immigration in Manila.

BI Commissioner Alipio Fernandez Jr. yesterday signed a memorandum of agreement with Tomas Alcantara, chair of the Taipei-based Manila Economic and Cultural Office authorizing the latter to process and approve applications for dual citizenship.

Previously, those seeking dual citizenship had to travel to the Philippines.

Leila B. Salaverria

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Logistics Management.

For the first time, as part of an academe-industry partnership between the Technological Institute of the Philippines and Transprocure, this four-year academic program called BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMMERCE, MAJOR IN LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT is being offered only at TIP.

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# 60 Metro schools, hospitals, buildings vulnerable to big quake

From page A1

easy. No damage was reported.

"They were weak though some people felt them. They happened separately, and were not connected to the killer quake in Indonesia," Phivolcs chief Renato Solidum said.

## LTO office, Children's Hospital

Aside from schools, three hospital buildings, three sports complexes and the two-story Letas building of the Land Transportation Office in Quezon City were among those found to have structural problems.

The medical facilities in urgent need of detailed evaluation are the three-story main building and the three-story spinal ward of the Philippine Orthopedic Center, and the Philippine Children's Medical Center, all in Quezon City.

Aside from the three buildings in the PhilSports Arena in Pasig City, the other damaged sports facilities were identified as the one-story Quirino Grandstand and the one-story steel-framed building in the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, both in Manila.

The task force recommended that the buildings be evaluated immediately to determine what needed to be done to improve them.

## Detailed evaluation

"Sixty buildings, (mostly school buildings) have been recommended for urgent detailed evaluation due to severity of damage that can be life threatening in case of major earthquake or any natural or manmade calamity," Public Works Undersecretary Salvador Pleyto, head of the Task

**FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF the buildings that need urgent detailed evaluation, according to the Task Force on Building Inspection of the Department of Public Works and Highways. Only the names of 52 buildings were available. According to DPWH engineers, the names of eight buildings in Marikina not on the list were with an engineer who was out of town.**

### Caloocan

Cecilio Apostol Elementary School (3-story building).

### Makati

Pio del Pilar Elementary School (5-story RC building); Francisco Benitez Elementary School (3-story RC building).

### Malabon

Imelda Elementary School; Malabon Elementary School (2-story Dofia Maxima Blas Building); Malabon Elementary School (2-story Rodriguez Building); Potrero Elementary School-Main (2-story Vicencio Building).

### Mandaluyong

Eight buildings need urgent detailed inspection, but these were not named.

### Manila

Araullo High School (4-story building with covered roof deck); Manila High School (3-story building with roof deck); Manuel A. Roxas High School (4-story building with roof deck); Quirino Grandstand (1-story building with concrete roof slab); and the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex (1-story steel-framed building).

### Marikina

St. Mary's Elementary School (2-story Building C) and Tañong High School (4-story MCF Building).

### Navotas

Bangkulasi Elementary School (2-story Marcos-type); Daanghari Elementary School (2-story C. Bautista Building); Kapitbayam Elementary School (2-story Industrial Arts Building); Navotas Polytechnic College (3-story building); San

Roque Elementary School (2-story Rodriguez Building); Tangos 1 Elementary School (2-story Old Rodriguez Building); and the Wawa Elementary School (2-story DPWH building).

### Pasay

Kalayaan High School (5-story RC building) and Pasay City West High School (4-story RC building).

### Pasig

Bagong Ilog Elementary School (2 buildings); Dr. Sixto Antonio Elementary School; Kalawaan Elementary School; Oranbo Elementary School; Palatiw Elementary School (5-story building); Pasig Central Elementary School; Pineda Elementary School; and the PhilSports Arena (3 buildings).

### Pateros

Maria Concepcion High School and Pateros Elementary School.

### Quezon City

Batasan Hills Elementary School (4-story Liban Building); Carlos L. Albert High School (2-

story Ramos Building); Don A. Roces Sr. Science Technology High School (2-story Technology/Imelda Building); Elementary ng Pura V. Kalaw (2-story DECS building); the Payatas High School (2-story DPWH building).

Philippine Orthopedic Center (3-story spinal wing ward and 3-story main building); Philippine Children's Medical Center, and the Land Transportation Office (2-story Letas Building).

### San Juan

Addition Hills Elementary School (1-story Bagong Lipunan Building 2) and the Sta. Lucia Elementary School (2-story building).

### Taguig

Bagong Tanyag Elementary School (2 buildings) and the Daang Hari Elementary School.

### Valenzuela

Canamay West Elementary School (old 2-story building) and Marulas Elementary School (2-story MSA Building).

Source: Summary report of the Task Force on Building Inspection

lowing the earthquake that devastated Pakistan. Its duty is to determine the condition of public buildings and bridges and recommend measures to improve them so that they would have a better chance of withstanding earthquakes.

"Six bridges were evaluated and rated, and chosen for seismic retrofitting, which to our opinion should be the top priority and its implementation be pursued the soonest since this would require minimal cost," Bureau of Design Director Danilo Manilang said in his Feb. 17 report to Pleyto.

The bridges are the Bicutan interchange, the left and right Spine Bridge in Navotas town, the Alat Bridge in Caloocan City and the Sto. Niño and and Rodriguez bridges in Manila.

Cost of retrofitting the bridges was placed at P31 million.

## Underpasses

The task force inspected a total of 329 road structures consisting of 251 bridges, 68 interchanges or flyovers, six underpasses and four tunnels.

Pleyto said the task force would also conduct inspections of buildings and bridges in the rest of the country.

"It is our duty to ensure that public buildings are strong enough to withstand most earthquakes and calamities," he said.

Ms Arroyo's chief of staff, Michael Defensor, said the President would meet with officials of the National Disaster Coordinating Council this week to assess the government's disaster-preparedness program. With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, AP and AFP



INDONESIAN soldiers unload relief supplies donated by Singapore at an airbase in Yogyakarta.



INJURED earthquake victims wait for treatment at a temporary military hospital in Bantul Yogyakarta.

# RP doctors to fly 12 tons of supplies to Indonesia

From page A1

for help on roads lined with crumpled buildings.

The team of Filipino doctors, nurses, psychologists, orthopedic surgeons and other medical personnel is expected to leave either tonight or early Wednesday aboard a Philippine Air Force C-130 plane for Jakarta.

From the Indonesian capital, the team will proceed to the city of Yogyakarta. The area affected by the quake stretches across hundreds of square kilometers of mostly farming communities to the south of this ancient city in Central Java.

The Philippine team is led by Dr. Emmanuel Bueno, head of the emergency room at the East Avenue Medical Center in Quezon City. The assistant team leader is Dr. Romeo Bituin, assistant head of the emergency room at the Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital in Manila.

Bueno has taken part in disaster response operations, including those in Southern Leyte where a deadly landslide killed about a thousand villagers in February. He also joined operations in Infanta, Real and Gener-

al Nakar in Quezon province that were hit by flash floods in 2004.

Bituin was a member of the Philippine humanitarian contingent to Sri Lanka which was devastated by a killer tsunami in December 2004.

Philippine Ambassador to Jakarta Shulan Primavera said an initial check showed no Filipino was killed or injured in the earthquake. According to immigration records, 15 Filipinos were registered as temporary residents of Yogyakarta.

## Global aid effort

Countries across the world have pledged millions of dollars, tons of supplies and hundreds of personnel for the earthquake victims in Indonesia.

An aid plane chartered by the UN's children's agency arrived in the city of Solo, about three hours by car from the hardest-hit district of Bantul on Java island. It was loaded with water, tents, stoves and cooking sets that officials said would be distributed later Monday.

On Sunday, three UN trucks brought high-energy biscuits to survivors and two Singapore military cargo planes arrived at Yo-

gakarta airport with doctors and medical supplies.

But local officials said relief supplies remained inadequate.

"We have received food and medicine from the government but it's not enough," said Suparno, a neighborhood official in Bantul who goes by one name, like many Indonesians. "How can I distribute 40 kg of rice to 1,200 people?"

Hundreds of villagers lined main roads in the disaster zone, holding out donation boxes. They explained that any money collected would be used communally to buy rice, oil and candles.

"We need help. Anything at all," one sign read.

## Lack of coordination

Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono acknowledged the "lack of coordination" in aid distribution when he visited refugees on Monday and called for government officials to be "more agile."

"I saw in many areas that there are many things that need to be speeded up," he said. His government has promised to allocate \$107 million to help re-

build stricken areas over the next year.

Yudhoyono—criticized by some as hesitant to act in the past—spent the first night after Saturday's quake sleeping in a tent along with survivors and moved his office to the nearby city of Yogyakarta to supervise relief operations.

The government said the quake had killed more than 5,100 and left an estimated 200,000 people homeless, most of whom are now living in shacks close to their former homes or in shelters erected in rice fields. Hospitals overflowed with bloodied sur-

The US military plans to send 100 doctors, nurses and medical technicians from a base in Okinawa to Indonesia to treat everything from trauma and broken bones to lesser injuries like bruises, according to a US Pacific Command spokesperson.

## Fending for themselves

Some villagers had received clothing and food, but most were still fending for themselves more than 48 hours after the quake struck.

"All our valuables are gone,"

said Hardadi, as she cooked breakfast for three families living under a shelter made from fertilizer sacks. "But at least we managed to get the children out alive."

Many survivors worked together to clear the rubble and salvage building materials to build temporary shelters and health centers. One woman was collecting pieces of broken glass from a path—a hazard given that so many survivors were without shoes.

"The people here have the spirit to rebuild their lives," said Prapto Warsito, a village chief. "They have a long tradition of working and living together."

In one village, women brought their children to a well inside a damaged house and threw buckets of water over them as they stood on pieces of a broken table. "All we need now is a comb," joked one woman, who appeared in good spirits despite losing her father and home to the quake.

## Prone to disaster

Electricity and water supplies were still down in much of the region on Monday. Torrential rains have fallen at least twice since the

disaster, adding to the misery of the survivors.

The quake was the fourth destructive tremor to hit Indonesia in the last 17 months, including the one that spawned the Dec. 26, 2004, tsunami that killed 230,000 people across Asia, most of them on this Indian Ocean archipelago.

The country also faces a bird flu crisis, a spate of terror attacks by al-Qaida-linked Islamic militants and a threat of eruption from Mount Merapi, just north of the quake zone.

Activity at nearby Mount Merapi has intensified threefold since the quake, with lava and hot clouds avalanching 3 km down the volcano's slopes on Monday, according to Indonesian volcanologist Subandriyo. It was not clear if the two events were related.

Indonesia, the world's largest archipelago, is prone to seismic upheaval due to its location on the so-called Pacific Ring of Fire, an arc of volcanoes and fault lines encircling the Pacific Basin. It has 76 volcanoes, the largest number in the world. Reports from Dona Pazalbugan, Volt Contreras, Christine O. Avendaño and AP



# Journalists' group defends right to bear arms

By Alcuin Papa

AN ARMED JOURNALISTS' group advocating the right of members of the media to bear firearms said it was not a violent group nor was it advocating violence.

Joel Sy Egco, president of the Association of Responsible Media (Armed), told the INQUIRER the group's members had only taken their security into their own hands.

At the same time, Egco challenged the government to solve the murders of journalists which now number 79.

"We are not a violent group. Some of us have been victims. So now our security is incumbent and inherent on us, it's an individual concern," he said.

Egco last week lauded the announcement of Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez that journalists would be allowed to bear arms. But the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) had countered that arming journalists would only "beget more violence."

"We are not picking a fight with the NUJP. It's their policy

statement. But we know for a fact that NUJP leaders in Mindanao are armed. What or who is dictating that policy we don't know," Egco said. He added that NUJP leaders had admitted that arming journalists was a viable option.

"There is a need for our protection. Our firearms are for protection and sport purposes only. We cannot keep on blaming the police and government because they might be involved. We challenge the government to prove us wrong," Egco said.

The aim of Armed, he said, is for journalists to "band together to become hard targets and not present ourselves as random targets."

"Our group is one way of coming up with a concerted effort to show government that we are not taking all of this sitting down," Egco said.

He said the group was also calling for the creation of a multi-agency task force composed of the Department of Social Work and Development, Department of Justice, Philippine National Police, National Bureau

of Investigation and other media groups to solve in one year all 79 cases involving the killing of journalists.

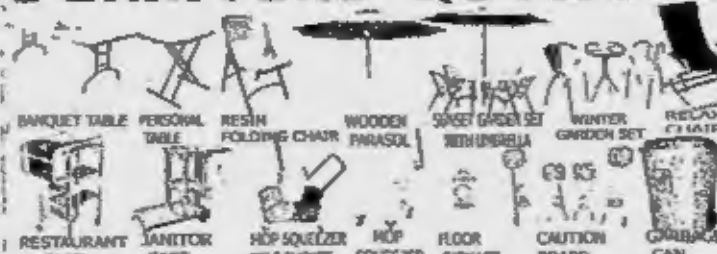
Egco also said Task Force Newsmen should be made a regular unit of the PNP and not activated only when newsmen were killed.

The group also called for laws creating "press freedom courts"

and a special team of prosecutors to handle cases involving press freedom.

It also called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to "talk to the owners of the different publications and media outfits to provide journalists with better employment benefits and packages as a deterrent to corruption."

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# Ex-Red peace adviser killed

From page A1

Llamas was the 224th militant to be murdered since President Macapagal-Arroyo assumed the presidency, according to an inquiry tally.

His death was the latest in a cluster of killings of militants or leftist figures during the past two months. Ten were murdered in April and Llamas was the eighth felled by bullets this month.

A man with a varied past, the 55-year-old Llamas spent 25 years as a rebel, rising to become a regional chief of the Communist Party of the Philippines, before leaving the armed movement.

In 2004, he ran for governor of Albay under the breakaway faction of opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson in the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, but lost.

At the time of his death, Llamas was engaged in the scrap business and was probably on his way to Mayon Docks Inc., a drydocking facility, according to relatives. He was shot along a narrow road at 8:30 a.m.

"They really wanted him dead," said Chief Supr. Victor Boco, the regional police chief, adding that he had formed a task force to investigate the killing, The Associated Press reported.

Tabaco's chief police investigator, Insp. Fernando Bolanga, said Llamas suffered three fatal bullet wounds—two in the back and one in the head.

He was pronounced dead on arrival at the Amando Cope Memorial Hospital, a few meters from the ambush site.

## Shot at close range

His driver and friend, Marciano Bitara, was hit in the right arm.

Bitara said he was maneuvering the van when the gunmen sidled up to its side and fired at Llamas at close range.

He said he wanted to speed away when he saw Llamas bleeding, but he crashed into a parked vehicle.

Bitara said the attackers made sure Llamas was dead by shooting him again as he was falling.

He said he could not identify the gunmen but their ages appeared to be around 30.

## The fatal shot

A witness said that before the ambush, the gunmen had dropped by a nearby store.

Found at the crime scene were four empty shells and a live bullet for a .45-cal. pistol.

Dr. Jose Cope said one of the bullets penetrated the lower part of Llamas's ear, causing instant death. He was also wounded in the shoulder and abdomen.

Llamas was among about 50 people accused by the justice department in February of conspiring with five militant lawmakers, other leftists and rebel soldiers to kill Ms Ar-

royo and overthrow her administration.

A Makati judge refused to accept the charges but state prosecutors subsequently refilled them.

Llamas had a bounty of P1.5 million on his head when he was wounded and captured in 1995 after a clash with government troops in Sorsogon. Police identified him then as the secretary for Bicol of the Communist Party of the Philippines and national chief of staff of the NPA.

A Quezon City judge ordered his release in June 1996.

## Military claim

A political science and philosophy graduate of Albay's Aquinas University, Llamas became a political consultant and security officer of the communist-led National Democratic Front panel in peace talks with the government.

He was a founding organizer of the party-list group Bayan Muna.

In Lucena City, Lt. Gen. Pedro Cabuay Jr., commander of the military's Southern Luzon Command, immediately pointed to the NPA

as the suspects in the killing of Llamas.

"By all indications, Llamas's killing was an NPA hit squad operation on orders of the Communist Party of the Philippines," he said in an interview. "This latest killing was a continuing episode of the ongoing internal purge within the movement."

## Counterrevolutionary?

Cabuay claimed that Llamas was disowned by his former comrades when he ran for the Albay gubernatorial post in 2004.

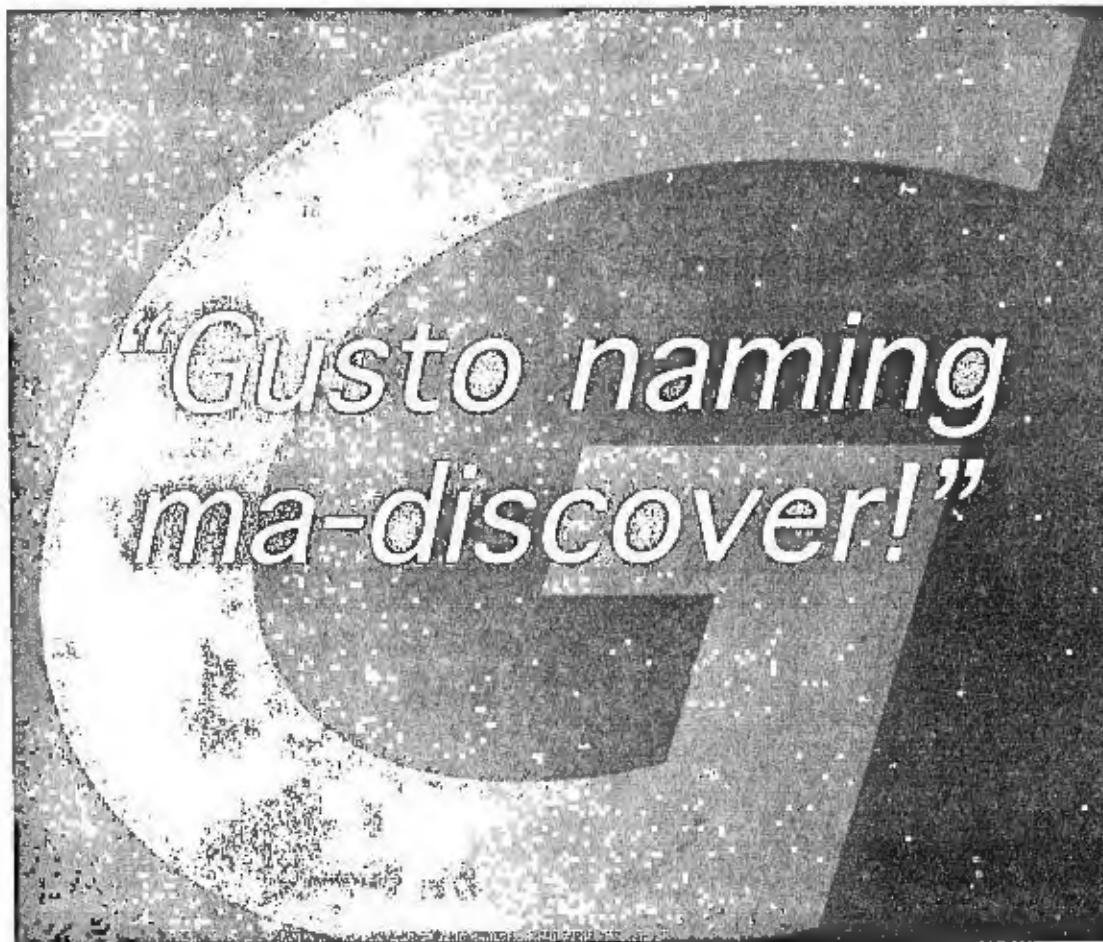
"His running for election was not approved by the CPP. Since then, Llamas was perceived to be a counterrevolutionary in the mold of Kintanar, Tabara and Lagman," the Solcom chief said.

He was referring to Felimon "Popoy" Lagman, Romulo Kintanar and Arturo Tabara, all former leaders of the rebel movement who were also assassinated supposedly by their former comrades.

With reports from Ephraim Aguilar and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., and Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research

SEN. Panfilo Lacson, then a presidential aspirant in the 2004 elections, raises the hand of former New People's Army leader Sotero Llamas during the oath-taking of members of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino in Albay.

JOE GALVEZ



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## Correction

IN THE MAY 7 ISSUE, a caption of a front-page photo misstated that ancestors of the Ifugao had built the rice terraces in Bontoc, Mountain Province.

Ancestors of the tribal folk in Mountain Province built the Baybay Rice Terraces shown in the photo, while those of the Ifugao built the Banaue Rice Terraces.

The same caption misstated the distance from Bontoc to Sagada. The town of Bontoc lies 19 km—not 10 km—from the town of Sagada.

## THE DAILY GOSPEL



Tuesday, May 30, 2006  
7th Week of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 20:17-27  
Gospel: John 17:1-11

Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; give glory to your Son, that the Son may give glory to you. You have given him power over all mortals, and you want him to bring eternal life to all you have entrusted to him. For this is eternal life: to know you, the only true God, and the One you sent, Jesus Christ."

"I have glorified you on earth and finished the work that you gave me to do. Now, Father, give me in your presence the same Glory I had with you before the world began."

"I have made your name known to those you gave me from the world. They were yours and you gave them to me, and they kept your word. And now they know that all you have given me comes indeed from you. I have given them the teaching I received from you, and they received it and know in truth that I came from you; and they believe that you have sent me."

"I pray for them; I do not pray for the world but for those who belong to you and whom you have given to me—indeed all I have is yours and all you have is mine—and now they are my glory. I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world whereas I am going to you. Holy Father, keep them in your Name (that you have given me,) so that they may be one, just as we are."

## Commentary

Paul is taking leave of his communities, seeking to put things in order before he goes to prison/death. And Jesus does this as his last testament in prayer to the Father, letting us listen to his words. And he prays for his friends, for all of us who come after him who keep his word. We have been entrusted with the Word and with everything the Father shared with Jesus, even his own Spirit of truth and mystery of love. We remain in the world but God is with us: Father, Son and Spirit. We must pray this prayer as our own, together.





# No more safe haven, says Left

From page A1

Ocampo said the criminal information filed by the DOJ in a Makati City court had turned into a virtual "death sentence" for those named as respondents.

### GMA accountable

"President Arroyo should realize that her silence over the murders of her perceived critics and her promotion of notorious rights violators are being interpreted as a blanket authority by the military to justify summary executions and extrajudicial killings," said Ocampo. "She will eventually be held accountable for all these dastardly crimes."

Malacañang denied any hand in the killing of Llamas.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had ordered the police and the interior department to investigate the murder, Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said.

"I want to make it clear that Ka Teroy Llamas is not an enemy of the government," Defensor told reporters. "He joined the government and helped in many programs of government and

that's why we don't have any interest and no one in the government had any interest, even the military, to see harm done to him."

Defensor also doubted that Llamas was a victim of a "communist purge."

For one thing, Llamas had left the movement and had been working above ground with a nongovernment organization, he said.

### 'A death list'

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said people should not speculate on Llamas's killing because the police were now investigating the case.

Rep. Liza Maza described the charge sheet as "virtually a death list" put together by the administration to silence dissenters.

She and fellow lawmaker Rep. Teddy Casifio, who were also accused in the rebellion case, said the killing of Llamas and the reported disappearance of leftist Philip Limjoco meant that they had already been judged by the government's "death squad."

"People in the charge sheet are already being killed one by one ... This is very alarm-

ing and we condemn the political killings and ambush of Llamas. Nevertheless, we shall continue to push for our advocacy that serves the interest of the poor Filipino people," said Maza.

### RP a 'killing field'

Other opposition lawmakers were also shocked by the news of Llamas's murder.

Rep. Roilo Golez of Parañaque said: "This is the inevitable outcome when police and even the military are used to run after political enemies instead of addressing rising criminality."

Golez said he believed the country was now "becoming a killing field for journalists, militants and other prominent personalities, like mayors and former congressmen."

"Whoever perpetrated the killing of Sotero Llamas ... left, right, government ... this is ultimately the responsibility of government," said Golez.

Rep. Rafael Mariano, for his part, said he feared a further escalation of "state-sponsored political killings."

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Sen. Panfilo Lacson also condemned the Llamas murder.

### A terrible message

"This is a terrible message being sent to our people on the sad state of law and order in our country," Pimentel told reporters.

"It is an indication that the security of people is put at risk simply because they are advocating ideas that may be different from the accepted norm of people in government."

Lacson, who endorsed Llamas's candidacy when he ran for Albay governor in the May 2004 elections, said: "Clearly there's a pattern of a crackdown on the militant groups and the critics of the Arroyo administration by way of assassinations and arrests."

"So I'd like to urge the likes of Rep. Satur Ocampo and company to take care of their own personal security," Lacson said.

### State of terrorism

Pimentel said the Llamas case was proof of the "state of terrorism" in place in the country and this had made some senators think twice about advocating early passage of the antiterrorism bill. (See related story on Page A5.)

"Considering recent developments, we are apprehensive that if you enact an antiterrorism bill, you place another weapon in the hands of the administration to harass and run after and exterminate those who are opposed to the government, even politically speaking."

Pimentel said the creation of a task force to investigate Llamas's killing was a "good start," but the best solution would be for Ms. Arroyo to issue an order to stop the killings, identify the killers and prosecute them.

Randall Echanis, deputy secretary general of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas who had been also impleaded in the rebellion case, admitted that he, too, feared for his life.

"The military and police converted the (charge sheet) list into a death warrant," he said. "The 51 persons, especially those who are in the legal parliamentary struggle, are now open targets."

### Lomibao's order

Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao was briefed on the Llamas killing before he left yesterday on a 10-day trip to the United States and Europe.

Police spokesperson Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao said Lomibao instructed the police director for Bicol and Southern Luzon "to do everything within their means ... to solve the killings and to bring to the bar of justice those who are doing these."

With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, TJ Burgonio, Jocelyn R. Uy and Luige A. del Puerto



## Church group decries killings

A KEY PROTESTANT DENOMINATION HAS denounced the Arroyo administration for its apparent failure to stop the spate of killings victimizing activists and church workers.

In a resolution, the general assembly of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) lashed out at the government for not conducting "any serious and painstaking investigation."

"Passivity and silence, evasions and denials, distortions and prevarications characterize the state responses of the establishment, including those coming from the office of no less than the commander in chief," the group said.

The UCCP noted that some of the victims were its own members perceived by the government to be "activists or left-leaning."

They were Rev. Jemias Tinambacan, Jose Doton, Pastor Andy Pawikan and, most recently, Noel Capulong.

Tinambacan, 49, was gunned down in Misamis Occidental on May 9; Doton, 62, in Pangasinan seven days later; Pawikan, 30, in Nueva Ecija on May 21, and Capulong in Laguna last May 27.

"We strongly decry and denounce the ongoing unmitigated killings of militants and activists in our society, and hereby call upon the military leadership, especially the Commander in Chief, President Macapagal-Arroyo, to immediately cause the stopping of these extrajudicial executions and to employ all means to bring to justice, without delay all those responsible for the commission of the crimes," the UCCP said.

Christian V. Esquerro





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OPINION

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## Preparedness

WHILE PHILIPPINE EXPERTS HAVE SAID THAT the deadly tremor that recently struck Indonesia was not cause for alarm, we should not be complacent and instead prepare for earthquakes. Probably no other natural disaster can cause so many deaths and so much damage so quickly and in so little time. Thus, the best way to avoid disasters caused by earthquakes is to take corrective measures now and plan and prepare for them.

### EDITORIALS

The Philippines, like Indonesia and Japan, is prone to earthquakes because it lies within the Pacific "Ring of Fire." The Ring, which actually looks like an arc, stretches from New Zealand, passes through Indonesia, the Philippines and Japan, goes north to Alaska and goes down along the western coast of North and South America. About 90 percent of the world's earthquakes and 81 percent of its largest tremors occur along the Ring of Fire.

The Philippines is also earthquake-prone because it is in a zone being squeezed by the convergent motion between the Philippine sea plate on the east and the Eurasian plate on the west. Earthquakes are a fact of life in the Philippines; mild tremors occur almost daily and are recorded by modern instruments in seismographic stations throughout the country.

Since the 6.8 intensity earthquake that struck Luzon on July 16, 1990 and killed more than 1,000 people, the Philippines has been struck by close to 16,000 tremors, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology.

Can we predict and prevent earthquakes? Unfortunately, the answer is no, unless some way can be found to stop the Earth's tectonic plates from moving. The next best thing we can do is to prepare for earthquakes. We are more fortunate than Indonesia because many of our buildings are built according to the specifications of the Building Code. Some of the more recent buildings are similar to those in Japan that have springs that act like shock absorbers on a car.

Government engineers and inspectors should identify the areas that are at greatest risk, and start with them. The top 10 provinces that are at risk are Surigao del Sur, La Union, Benguet, Pangasinan, Pampanga, Tarlac, Ifugao, Davao Oriental, Nueva Vizcaya and Nueva Ecija. Precautions also have to be taken in thickly populated cities like Metro Manila.

Private citizens, especially owners of big buildings and businessmen, can do their part by having their establishments inspected for cracks in the walls and the grounds around the building examined for faults.

National Geographic in its April issue said that scientists in Japan have settled the question of predictability of earthquakes. It said: "Earthquakes follow a pattern. They have detectable precursors." The government would do well to send the country's earthquake experts to Japan to learn from its scientists. In the meantime, the government and the private sector have to cooperate in setting up a co-ordinated disaster preparedness program to minimize casualties and damage in the event that "the big one" strikes.

## Protection

ONE OF THE MOST RIDICULOUS PROPOSALS to come from government in recent times is the suggestion to journalists to carry guns to protect themselves against would-be assassins. It is a tacit admission that the administration cannot carry out one of the most basic duties of a government, which is to enforce law and order and protect citizens.

If the proposal is to be carried to its logical conclusion, then leftist militants and activists, who are being killed by the scores, should also be provided with guns. Businessmen should also carry guns to protect themselves from robbers, car thieves and kidnappers. Students should also carry guns to be able to fight holdup men and cell phone snatchers. And so on, and so forth. Pretty soon the entire country will be one Wild, Wild, West where anybody who can afford the price of a gun will be packing one.

Nandy Pacheco, the proponent of a Gunless Society and a leader of Ang Kapatiran Party, said: "Willy-nilly, the government promotes domestic armament, 'gunocracy' and the gun culture."

And now it is throwing up its hands and giving journalists the responsibility for protecting themselves. But many journalists can't even shoot straight. No, arming journalists is not the answer; the government simply must enforce law and order and provide protection for everybody, including journalists.

Publisher IRAGANI YAMBOT

Editor in Chief LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC

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## Final nail or clumsy footwork?

"IT WAS THE FINAL NAIL ON HIS LEGAL coffin that he ironically hammered down himself."

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said that of former President Joseph Estrada's admission, in court, that he signed bank documents as "Jose Velarde."

That point is crucial. As Prosecutor Joker Arroyo rightly said at the Estrada impeachment trial, "This case will be won or lost through bank records." But the "final nail" is for the courts to decide. All we can say now is that this is clumsy footwork with names. Thus, we wrote in an earlier column:

"No, Groucho is not my real name," deadpanned the mustached brother of Marx comedians Moe and Harpo. I'm just breaking it in for a friend."

"Did Erap do a Groucho after the court ruled that he can't be prosecuted for signing, before startled Equitable PCIBank officers, as Jose Velarde?"

That was not a crime in February 2000. The prohibition on aliases or numbered accounts in the Anti-Money Laundering Law took effect only in October 2001.

The account started with a P1 deposit on Aug. 26, 1999. When closed on Nov. 10, 2000, it held P3.2 billion.

Not mine, Erap said, that belonged to my good friend, Jaime Dichavez.

In a February 2001 interview, Estrada told ANC TV he signed as Jose Velarde as a "guarantor of William Gatchalian for the account of Jaime Dichavez."

Was this the Jose Velarde everyone had been futilely looking for, many asked then.

Where in the world does a guarantor for half a billion bucks sign on the dotted line with a false name—and on somebody else's bankbook? Only in da Pilipinas.

"Was Estrada breaking in, as Groucho Marx did, a name for a crony? Greater love than this no man has, than he lay down his name for a friend."

A name, the dictionary says, is "a word or phrase that constitutes the distinctive designation of a person or thing."

### VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"William Saunders" and "Jane Ryan" were names that appeared on Swiss bank papers. Edsa I crowds stumbled across them littering Malacañang floors after the Marcoses fled.

It was not illegal in 1986 to have pseudonyms on bank books. But the Marcoses never admitted to a Groucho caper. Unlike Estrada, they didn't sign bank documents before a Clarissa Ocampo.

Filipino maxims on names are linked to integrity, notes the authority on our proverbs, University of the Philippines professor emeritus Damiana Eugenio. "A good name is better than wealth," is an axiom common to Maranaos, Ilocanos, Pampangueños and Boholanos.

In an INQUIRER series, Gilda Cordero Fernando tracked how Filipino names have changed, reflecting the country's checkered history. "Patriotic fervor during the first decades of the American occupation produced names like ... Ameurina (America-Europe-Philippines) Patria, Rizalina," she notes. "Longer names—like Eufrocina, Quitoriano, Sisenando—were lost in transit.... Shorter names of two or three syllables became the in-thing...." Lourdes became Lulu but not Onding and with time, Undo (Raymundo) became Ray.

Stateside names crept in after World War II. "There was a boom in Mary Lou (though it still stood for Maria Lourdes or Maria Luisa).... The Sixties was also the period when the Russian 'ski' was added to nicknames as a form of endearment. So, we had Polski, Netski, Odetski."

The protest years, Fernando says, gave children fighting names like "Alab, Rebo (Revolution), Makibaka...."

The Estrada impeachment tossed up a unique use of code names. Witness Carmencita Itchon, for example, claimed "Jingle

Bells"—then Mayor Jinggo Estrada—called repeatedly about jueteng takes.

"Exoticism rules the world of names here," Matthew Sutherland wrote in the Observer. Pinoy names have "door-bell names": Bing-Bong, Ding-Dong. Even our former police chief (now senator) is named Ping. Then, there are "repeating names" like Len-Len or Jing-Jing. "They're refined by using the 'squared' symbol, as in Len2 or Mai2."

"Does the randomly inserted letter 'l' give a touch of class to an otherwise average name," like Jhun, Ghemma or Jhimmy? Sutherland asked in his feature titled, "A Rhose By Any Other Name"—a spin off from balcony scene in Shakespeare's 1595 tragedy "Romeo and Juliet." Remember Franco Zeffirelli's brilliant film of this tragedy?

"What's in a name? That which we call a rose, By any other name would smell as sweet," Juliet frets over Romeo's family name. They came from the feuding Montague and Capulet families.

"Is she a Capulet?" a bewildered Romeo asks.

Many bicker over names of places where one resides: upscale subdivision like Forbes or crummy Tondo. "We go to gain a patch of ground / That hath no profit in it but the name," Hamlet groused. But then he lived in a castle, albeit spooky.

Muslims have 95 other names for Allah. Jews would not address God directly. We have a "God Of A Hundred Names" say Barbara Greene and Victor Gollancz in a book that collates prayers of various faiths, including the Christian direct address, "Our Father."

Names in religious history have a function more than just accidental applications. Adam, Genesis tells us, named all creatures. He "called his wife Eve because she was mother of all the living." The Baptist's name was chosen before his birth.

"Our name is legion," screamed the spirits in the Gensarene cave dweller, in response to the demand by one whose name, Luke writes, was chosen before his birth. And the night before he died, he would pray for others: "Protect them with the Name you gave to me."

## When are we going to get angry at this? (Part 2)

I SAW THE EXCHANGE BETWEEN JINGGOY Estrada and the people responsible for the abduction of the "Erap 5" in a Senate hearing last week. Such was the depth of the younger Estrada's fury he spoke in straight English. He had every reason to be furious. The people he was facing at the hearing had just roused five of their supporters from sleep, bundled them off to God-knows-where, tortured them, denied they had them in their custody, and after being found out, showed no contrition. Indeed, they showed only arrogance, dismissing the incident as a tempest in a teacup.

Estrada rightly demanded an apology. He singled out for it AFP Press Information Office chief, Tristan Kison, the fellow who had adamantly denied the AFP had the "Erap 5."

And this is the part where I nearly fell off my seat. Pursued by reporters afterward, Kison first scoffed at the idea of apologizing for the deed before he lapsed into a sullen silence. Why should he apologize? he asked. He had already revised his position.

What can one say? There's a virus going around among this country's government officials, civilian and military, that's deeply contagious. The only thing commendable in Kison's behavior is that at least he did not say that what he did, which was to lie through his teeth when he said they did not have the "Erap 5," was a lapse in judgment. But he shares in the same attitude of his commander in chief and colleagues, now the hallmark of officialdom, which says, "I lied. So what?"

Raul Gonzalez, the incredibly named justice secretary, now says, "Ay mali!" But with a twist, because what he means by "Ay mali!" is not that they were wrong to have arrested the suspects without warrant and turned them into chopped liver but to have actually released one of them! He has reason to believe, Gonzalez says, that the fellow is a member of the New People's Army who is bent on assassinating GMA and some of her Cabinet officials, including him. If someone wants to kill him, he fumed on TV, his features contorting even more (if that is possible to imagine), he has a

### THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

right to defend himself.

One is tempted to say that he misses the point. One is tempted to say that in a democracy actually making people disappear for 48 hours, which exposes them not just to torture but to the possibility of being summarily executed without the world knowing any better, is the real crime. But since they are no longer particularly interested in being reminded of the niceties of democracy, since their principle now is simply "Bastusin na lang tayo," let me just say that if what Gonzalez says is true—namely that one of the "Erap 5," Ruben Dionisio, is out to assassinate him among other GMA officials—then we have every right to demand from Dionisio an ardent public apology. Whether he is able to carry out his plan or not, we have a right to ask him to face the nation on TV and say:

"As you all know, assassinations are normally carried out by people half my age, but in my case, though I am 60 and look tubercular, I was compelled by my convictions to contemplate it. I was anxious to protect my children's future. And so I plotted to rid the world of vermin. But if I knew then what I know now, I would never have entertained it. It would have been a disservice to my country and people. Why would I want to get rid of someone who very literally gives this fake government the kind of face it so richly deserves? Why should I want to get rid of someone who, by his actions and utterances, effectively gives the citizens to know what kind of justice they may expect from this regime? I ... am ... sorry."

The case of the "Erap 5" does dredge up the "Hello Garc" tape and GMA's subsequent apology for "lapse in judgment" by sheer contrast. In

the first, despite having nothing but circumstantial evidence to go by (by Gonzalez's own admission), the authorities seized the "Erap 5" without warrant and, for a while, held them at their pleasure. In the second, despite having GMA's and Garc's DNA-imprinted voices in a tape plotting to steal votes, the authorities refused to seize GMA without hesitation and hold her in total displeasure. In the first, the "Erap 5" were never given the chance to face their accusers, they were just given the chance to face their torturers. In the second, GMA was never given the chance to face herself or the truth, whichever causes more pain, she was just given the chance to perform amateur theater before the nation. In the first, for being accused wrongly of sedition, the "Erap 5" were punished by torture and the threat of "salvaging." In the second, for being accused rightly of stealing the vote, GMA was rewarded with the power to torture the nation until 2010.

As I said before, the only thing that's more frightening than that corpses, figuratively and literally, litter our pavement every day is that all we do is shrug our shoulders as we pass them by. Which, like fertilizer to a crop, guarantees they will multiply a hundredfold.

When are we going to get angry at this?

One of my eagle-eyed readers, Larry Nieva, who works with the Department of Public Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, Toronto, sent this:

"The essay (De Quiros) attributed to George Carlin was not written by George Carlin (even his website denies this) but the author is a minister, author and former pastor of Overlake Christian Church in Redmond, Washington. In a response to an inquiry by TruthOrion.com, Dr. Bob Moorehead said he wrote it in 1990. It was later published in 1995 in his book 'Words Apply Spoken.' Paperback: 198 pages; Publisher: Overlake Christian Bookstore."

What can I say? Paradoxically, too, in this day and age, we have more words of wisdom but fewer honest men.



## OPINION

A11

## US Senate bill a double whammy for RP

A MOST SERIOUS PROBLEM THAT OUR LEGISLATORS should turn their entire attention to is the possibility that our entire health system would collapse. This is due to the prospect of a heavier exodus of Filipino nurses to the United States, after the recent passage by the US Senate of an immigration bill that seeks to lift the limit on the number of foreign nurses who can immigrate to the US. The Philippines is the biggest source of nurses for US hospitals, followed by India and China. Filipino nurses are the most preferred because they are not only better trained than those from other poorer countries, they also have good manners. Hence, that US Senate bill is expected to hit this country hardest.

For us, however, it's not just nurses we're going to lose, but many doctors as well. It's no secret that a good number of doctors, especially from our provincial hospitals, are studying nursing in order to work abroad. Thus, that US bill is a double whammy for us. To be sure, RP nurses, whose starting salary in the United States is at least \$36,000 a year, would contribute fat remittances to our economy. One sector benefiting from them is real property: overseas RP nurses are today's biggest buyers of condo units. The downside, however, is that our health system has suffered tremendously.

A New York Times article cited government records that over the past three years more than 50,000 nurses have left the Philippines and that 687 private hospitals have stopped operating since 1998, mainly due to the lack of personnel. Dr. Rolando Songco, owner of the Hospital of the Infant Jesus in Sampaloc, Manila, told me some years back that he was unable to implement a long planned expansion of his hospital due to the fast turnover of nurses. On the other hand, many of the 682 government hospitals are reported to have closed sections and departments due to lack of personnel.

The Times also reported some 118,000 vacancies for registered nurses in US hospitals last month, but this is predicted to swell to some

POLITICAL  
TIDBITSBelinda  
Olivares-Cunanan

800,000 by 2020. There is now a big controversy about how to fill that gap. One school of thought is that the US Congress ought to strengthen the US nursing education system by setting up more nursing schools. I submit, however, that the reality is that fewer Americans want to enter the nursing as well as the nursing teaching professions, as many other fields are more attractive financially and require less work. Another school of thought apparently prefers the simpler solution: recruiting nurses from Third World countries like RP and enticing them with immigrant visas. As the Times story noted, many US legislators look at it as a question of market forces at work, but others regard this as "an ethically questionable" strategy, considering what the massive recruitment does to these poorer countries' health care system.

Our legislators have to look at the problem squarely and find workable solutions. Some years back President Macapagal-Arroyo was asked about this problem and she said, "Put up more nursing schools." But it may not be as simple as that. Where do we get competent teachers, lab technicians and other related staff? These resources are not inexhaustible. Before it reaches crisis proportions, our legislators should address the problem by looking at increasing salaries, giving more tax incentives and scholarships and the like, although that may be like sticking one's finger to plug a leak in a dike.

Over the past week and a half, the Philippines played host to over 400 delegates from over 80 countries who came for the 31st Unesco-International Theater Institute World Congress. In other

countries that have hosted this biennial activity, it was held usually in only one city, as was the case for the 30th Congress in Tampico, Mexico. The RP-sponsored Congress, however, featured a complex structure of interacting layers involving many different venues. There were the Leaders' Forum led by Unesco Secretary General Koichiro Matsuura; the Ministerial Meeting and Experts' Workshop on media content and creative industry; the Theater Olympics of the Nations, which saw various countries showing off their plays, mono-dramas and other artistic presentations; the World Festival of Drama Schools that brought 10 famous drama schools to 10 different regional sites to interact with the faculty and students of various universities and colleges and local folk; 23 workshops conducted by noted foreign drama professors in various schools in Metro Manila; a cinema festival, etc.

The multilayered congress was, to say the least, quite an ambitious undertaking that predictably spawned tough problems of planning and coordination. But by and large, it proceeded quite well, thanks to the organizers' total dedication and the Pinoy's vaunted bayanihan spirit. For instance, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Donald Dee lent his car for use by an African embassy here for a visiting dignitary's entourage. Hearing about it, PhilExport president Sergio Ortiz-Luis also signified his willingness to make a car available to the congress. The Departments of Tourism, Education and Finance and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza hosted dinners for the delegates, with Education Secretary Pe Hildalgo personally receiving them at the Cultural Center for the farewell dinner after last Sunday evening's closing ceremonies.

So grateful was the Unesco chief for the multi-level arrangements that he gave Cecile Guidote-Alvarez, executive director of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, a big buss on the cheeks at the airport and a watch as gift. The various cultural presenters also gave Cecile a loud ovation at the closing ceremony as well as a pair of bongo drums from Africa.

## One family, one city

## AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

But because they were making the trip shortly after the close of World War II, Maria and her companion were trapped in a *batil* (large cargo boat) on the open sea for more than a week. By the time they arrived in Manila, Maria's delicate "China doll" complexion had roughened and darkened. It took the matchmaker many minutes of strenuous explanations before Yu could accept the new arrival as his prospective bride.

Still, they wed and it was only with much difficulty that Maria, the pampered and cosseted daughter of Silay gentility, adjusted to life as a wife and mother and the daughter-in-law of disapproving in-laws. But she inherited much of her father's entrepreneurial instincts, and when the *calesa* accessories business she and her husband put up failed, she turned around and founded a laundry shop, which soon expanded into branches with the help of young women she recruited from Silay and Ilocos. It was mainly through her efforts that they were able to send through school their three sons, Robert, Edward and Charlie, who are all now successful businessmen in their own right.

I'M SHARING the story of Tan Kit and his daughter Maria Corazon (as re-told by Silay tourism officer Ver Pacete) because I spent much of last Sunday at the blessing, inauguration and turnover of the Silay City Women's Center, whose construction was funded by the Tan Kit family, more specifically the children of Maria Corazon Tan Kit Yu.

Some months back, Charlie Yu paid a call on Silay City Mayor Carlo Gamban to tell him that he and his brothers wanted to fund a project in Silay. "I

showed him an inventory of planned projects," recalled Gamban in his message at the rites, mentioning that one of the projects he pushed was an "underground public toilet." Charlie politely turned down the suggestion, explaining that "we want the project to be in memory of our late mother."

It was then that Gamban remembered the proposed women's center, for which Councilor Marie June Pavillar Castro, as chair of the committee on women and family, had managed to secure funding of P250,000 from the women's party-list Abansel Pinay. I remember Marie June telling me the amount fell far short of the construction cost when I unveiled the model at last year's Women's Day celebration, but that she had "faith that the needed money will be raised."

SOON enough, Charlie and Robert Yu went to Silay to take a look at the proposed site of the Women's Center, a government-owned lot in Hofilena Subdivision, where a Youth Training Center already stood. With the Tan Kit-Yu's providing the money, the center, an impressive two-story structure, took shape in about three months. After a hurried landscaping job, members of the extended Tan Kit clan, many of them pillars of Silay's business community, women sectoral leaders of Silay, and visitors from Bacolod and Manila, were sitting under white tents celebrating the concrete manifestation of Tan Kit's role in Silay's development, and his daughter's and extended family's continuing commitment to the city. (Abansel Pinay's money was used to buy furniture and equipment for the Center.)

Vice Mayor Jay Jalandoni, after reading the city council resolutions recognizing the Tan Kit-Yu's philanthropy and naming the street in front of the Women's Center "Tan Kit Road," remarked with some irony that "we can't seem to thank the Tan Kit family enough" for their generosity.

But as long as the Women's Center stands, providing shelter, counseling, training and networking opportunities for Silay's women, the gratitude of the city—and of women everywhere—will know no bounds.

details about how Mao's wife, Jiang Qing, persecuted the Ye family and how the Ye children went to prison. But she had only 58 words to say about her career as a Red Guard leader—no details or explanation of how she joined, which activities she participated in, and whether she was involved in "physical struggles" or persecuted others.

To call for those people who applied violence and persecuted others to examine themselves and repent is not intended to mete out legal responsibility and moral judgment. But it would at least restore the truth about the Cultural Revolution, summarizing its lessons in order to avoid repetition. More positively, restoring truth would counter the traditional Chinese instinct to blame all disasters on external forces, and might lead to a spiritual epiphany for a people struggling to find value in the emerging new China.

The person with the most responsibility for the catastrophe of the Cultural Revolution is, of course, Mao, yet he remains China's savior. The children of Mao's senior cadres who enjoyed the greatest fame during the Cultural Revolution are now the principal beneficiaries of today's economic reforms.

But this continuing silence by the guilty only transfers the costs to society as a whole, with Chinese life distorted by the weight of lies and evasions. As one generation after another continues to live in denial, the lies will corrode everything they touch. The Chinese people will no longer know what is personal honesty or historical truth, and they will repeatedly abuse, miss, or forsake historic opportunities.

As long as the Cultural Revolution remains unaccounted for, it will not have ended. If historical truth is not restored, the lessons cannot be learned. No amount of material prosperity can make China a healthy society without this necessary reckoning with the past. Project Syndicate

Liu Xiaobo is a literary and political critic and current president of the Chinese chapter of PEN.

## Letting things go by

AS I WAS WALKING HOME ONE THURSDAY NIGHT, I suddenly saw a man coming towards me as if he was running for his life. The people a few meters ahead on the sidewalk were screaming: "Snatcher! Snatcher!" Moments later, the man whisked by, leaving me bewildered as he turned the corner and disappeared from sight.

Ordinarily, I would have treated the whole thing with indifference and would have forgotten the entire incident by the time I reached the next block. But as I walked farther, I chanced upon the unfortunate victim. Her expression was difficult to describe. She seemed flustered yet relatively calm. She didn't go into hysterics, which is the natural reaction of any who had just been forcibly deprived of a prized possession like a cell phone. What she said distressed me. "Ingon ko na harangit ang snatcher, pero wala gyud (I was pleading for someone to block the snatcher, but nobody did)," she said bitterly.

## YOUNG BLOOD

Graeco Paul U.  
Antipasado

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

At that moment, I felt as if those words were directed at me. A mixture of shame, guilt and confusion swept over me.

At first I felt indignant or, should I say, defensive. "What was I supposed to do?" I told myself. "What could I have done? This massive human mass was hurtling toward me like a comet I could have been seriously injured!"

Yet after several blocks of repeating these statements trying to justify my inaction, I realized that perhaps the unfortunate woman had a point. How hard was it really to do something? Would it really have endangered my life if I had prevented the man from getting away with his crime? Was the situation really hopeless?

In the end, I had to admit that it wasn't the truth. I was running a hundred scenarios in my head where I bravely stopped a crime as it was being committed and I became the heroic stranger being thanked by a grateful woman who was again reunited with her possession.

We've all had moments like this, moments when we were given the chance to rise above ourselves and to do more than what is usually expected of us. And how do we respond? Often, it is with indifference, a sense of hopelessness or resignation. And we rationalize this attitude by saying we are powerless to do anything of any significance.

But history has repeatedly demonstrated that when people answer that call, mountains are moved, walls inexplicably crumble and then most amazing things happen. The first Edsa is a breathtaking example of this. Defeat and death would have been the certain fate of the 300 or so soldiers who barricaded themselves in Camp Crame on those fateful February days had the Filipino masses left unheeded that pleas of Jaime Cardinal Sin to protect them. Everybody hated the Marcos regime and everything it represented. But what was truly monumental was that after years of living in fear and acceptance of our unfortunate fate, we decided to finally stand up and stare the dictatorship in the face, regardless of the fact that tanks were barreling toward us and death seemed imminent, at least for a few terrifying hours. And when Marcos blinked, we deservedly regained the freedoms forcibly taken away from us.

The truth right now is as stark as it gets: We let things pass us by. We let our politicians get away with paying lip service to public service even as they line their pockets with public funds. We let corruption flourish by acquiescing to those who ask for bribes and extra favors in exchange for their services. We let our President get away with her "lapse in judgment" and, worse, we are letting her get away again with slowly chipping away at the foundations of our Republic.

I am constantly bothered by the fact that I seem to have developed a thought for ignoring unpleasant situations, crippled by the thought of possible humiliation, failure or loss of face. When all has been said and done, I end up wishing I had risked everything to make a difference in someone else's life. It pains me to admit that there were many things I could have changed or where I could have done this instead of that.

Many people have no regrets no matter how badly they screw up. I'm not one of them. So I think I should start helping set things right. Frankly, I have no idea how I can do my part, though I have mastered the art of maximizing the benefits I enjoy as a citizen. I have to learn to act like a citizen—and that is the necessary first step.

Oprah Winfrey was right when said, "Each of us has a personal calling that's as unique as a fingerprint—and the best way to succeed is to discover what you love and then find a way to offer it to others in the form of service, working hard, and also allowing the energy of the universe to lead you."

That Thursday evening, I could have looked at the snatching episode with indifference and just forgotten the whole thing quickly. But somehow I ended up feeling worse than the victim herself.

Graeco Paul U. Antipasado, 20, is a recent AB International Studies graduate of Xavier University-Ateneo de Cagayan, Cagayan de Oro City.

## NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to [youngblood@inquirer.com.ph](mailto:youngblood@inquirer.com.ph) together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

## THEY SAID

## Solutions from students

"Do better than us, your teachers, in coming up with the solutions to all the world's problems."  
—University of the Philippines chancellor Sergio Coo, speaking at the state university's 95th commencement exercises

## Sliding back

"My greatest regret now is that the education reforms we have worked hard to put in place may not survive this administration's preoccupation with political expediency rather than genuine reform, with deal-making rather than development, as well as the lack of appreciation much less commitment to the rule of law and good governance."

—Former Education Undersecretary Juan Miguel Lax, in his resignation letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo

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IN 1903, A 15-YEAR-OLD BOY IN FOOKIEN, China, who had been adopted by the Tan family, earning the name Tan Kit (*kit* being the Fookien word for "adopted"), hopped aboard a vessel bound for Silay, Negros Occidental.

Tan Kit had heard about Silay from other Chinese laborers and traders, who spoke of the many jobs available in the town where sugar production was making families wealthy. Once in Silay, Tan Kit joined a team of older carpenters who were building homes for Silay's most prominent families. There Tan Kit's brick-making skills came to the fore and he was never without a job.

Ten years later, Tan Kit had saved enough for a trip back to China and he traveled there with a grand plan, recruiting relatives and friends for his own house-building crew. While in Fookien, Tan Kit met Tio Sa who struck him as excellent wife material, and who was willing to join him in Silay. They were married, and a few weeks later, they sailed to Silay with the new recruits.

Tan Kit had bet right on Silay's prosperity, and soon he and his crew were constructing the mansions of Silay's elite, including the Ledesmas, Golez, Jison and Gamboa families. In 1920, Tan Kit was hired to construct portions of the base of the San Diego Church (now a pro-cathedral), under the supervision of its major sponsor, Jose Ledesma, and using the design of Italian architect Antonio Bernasconi. Later, Tan Kit established a lumberyard business did good business. On the personal front, he and Tio Sa also founded a family, with five natural children and two adopted ones. To blend in better among Silaynon families, Tan Kit adopted the Christianized name of Vivencio Tan Kit and sent his children to school in Silay, where they grew up among the children of haciendero families and other townfolks.

THE younger of the Tan Kit daughters, Maria Corazon, left Silay at the age of 18 after a matchmaker was dispatched from Manila to accompany her so she could meet her prospective groom, Antonio Yu, the scion of wealthy business folk who were making money as dealers of *calesa* accessories.

## The Cultural Revolution at 40

MAO'S CULTURAL REVOLUTION WAS launched 40 years ago this month, yet, despite 20 years of economic liberalization, its wounds remain a taboo subject. Today's rulers dare not face up to their own experiences or moral responsibility. So, three decades after the Cultural Revolution ended, the national self-examination that China requires has not yet begun.

Of course, the Communist Party has deemed the Cultural Revolution a "catastrophe," a judgment supported by mainstream opinion. But China's rulers permit discussion of the Cultural Revolution only within this official framework, suppressing any and all unofficial reflections. The generalized official verdict, and the use of Lin Biao (once Mao Zedong's vice president and designated heir, who rebelled against him) and the "Gang of Four" as scapegoats, obscures the crimes of Mao and the party, as well as the entrenched flaws in the system.

The Cultural Revolution's major figures, who wrought so much mindless violence, thus either maintain their silence or offer spurious self-defenses. Most victims also use various excuses to bottle up their memories. Those who both persecuted and were persecuted are willing to talk only about their being victims.

For example, the fanatical Red Guard movement swallowed up almost every youth of the night age. Yet a lot of Red Guards remain silent, saying, "It is not worth remembering." During the Cultural Revolution's early days, the Beijing-based Allied Movement, formed by the children of party cadres, committed horrendous acts of violence, operating under the slogan, "If the father is a hero, the son is a good man, if the father is a reactionary, the son is a turtle egg."

But the memoirs of these rebellious vanguards of yesterday highlight only their youthful passion and pure idealism, or their sufferings and those of their parents. They do not mention their own barbaric assaults, vandalism and looting, or their kangaroo courts. The revolution's veterans refuse to discuss their arrogant presumption of

WORLD  
VIEW

Liu Xiaobo



'As one generation after another continues to live in denial, the lies will corrode everything they touch'

"natural Redness," or to mention that they rebelled because they wanted power. Worse still, they express no remorse toward their victims.

The Cultural Revolution swept up all of China. So many people suffered that it is difficult to count the number of victims accurately. This is all the more true of the persecutors. Yet few reflect and apologize. The terror of the Red Guards, the armed fights between the rebellious sects, the teams established to "cleanse" the social classes, and all the bloody massacres are simply left to rot in China's memory. The official ban blocks reflection, but human weakness and careerist self-interest among those who participated buttresses the official ban.

Consider Ye Xiangzhen, the daughter of senior Gen. Ye Janying, who once discussed her family's Cultural Revolution experiences on television. During the early stages of the Cultural Revolution, she played a dual role: daughter of a Chinese field marshal and leader of the rebels at the School of Art in the capital. She complained that she was "too famous," "too active," and "too stressed" at the time, and she provided extensive







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Across the **NATION****Gloria puts Boracay under PTA**By Nestor R. Burgos Jr.  
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO has placed the island-resort of Boracay under the administrative control of the Philippine Tourism Authority (PTA).

The President signed Memorandum Order No. 214 in April and which was released last week, placing the world renowned island resort under PTA control to ensure the sustainable development of the country's prime tourist destination, said Edwin Trompeta, tourism regional director in Western Visayas.

Under the order, the PTA control would be exercised through the Eminent Person

Group (EPG) in coordination with the Aklan provincial government and the municipality of Malay where Boracay is located.

**Capacity**

Ms. Arroyo last year created the EPG to oversee the development of the island amid growing concerns over unplanned and uncontrolled development of the island that could go beyond its carrying

capacity.

Headed by businessman Ifrigo Zobel, the EPG is mandated to map out policies for the sustainable development of the island's tourism industry.

Trompeta said the order was in line with the PTA's mandate to control and manage tourism zones and areas in Boracay.

The order was also based on Presidential Proclamation 1801 issued by the late President Ferdinand Marcos on Nov. 10, 1978.

The proclamation placed several islands and coves, including Boracay, as tourist zones and marine reserves under the administration and control of the PTA.

The lands were categorized as public-owned and the government has the prerogative on the management and utilization of its resources.

**Building supervision**

Trompeta said that under the memorandum, the construction of buildings and structures in Boracay would be subject to PTA approval.

Operations of support services and infrastructures, like ports, would also be under the supervision of the PTA.

Currently, the construction of structures and operations of support infrastructures are being supervised by the municipal and provincial governments.

Trompeta said they are still waiting for the implementing

rules that would define the scope of the PTA's authority and the administrative body that would be created.

He welcomed the order as an initial step in the creation of a regular management authority that would govern the development of the island.

**Tourism haven**

Tourist arrivals in the island-resort of Boracay enjoy a continued upswing, records from the tourism department showed.

The number of visitors last year reached 499,457, 16.48 percent higher than the 428,755 recorded in 2004.

The tourists poured in P8.18 billion which is 38 percent higher than the P7.88 billion that the island earned in 2004.

**INSIDE**

**Punish irresponsible parents, solons told**

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**Church, LGU execs tell voters: Get info on Cha-cha**

/A14

**DENR gives illegal fish pens 3 mos**

/A14

**BLOWING BUBBLES**

In this handout photo provided by the US Navy, Navy Lt. Stella Annunziato, a nurse from New Jersey, entertains a patient aboard the hospital ship USNS Mercy, May 27, 2006 in Zamboanga City.

**6 mayors in Isabela brace for court war with gov over taxes**

ILAGAN, ISABELA—"WE WILL see her in court."

This was the reply of two of the six Isabela mayors who Gov. Maria Gracia Cielo Padaca threatened to sue for nonremittance of the P11.9-million share of the provincial government from real property taxes for the past two years.

Padaca did not identify the six mayors but she was referring to Napoleon Dy (Alcala), Jose Panganiban Jr. (Angadanan), Dellinto Albano (Ilagan), Amado Vallejo Jr. (Cordon), Abraham Lim (San Isidro), and Francisco Ignacio Ramirez III (Naguilian).

"I am ready to see them in court," Padaca told the INQUIRER from the United States where she is on a three-week study tour. "When I say something, I mean it."

Dy, president of the Isabela Mayors' League, said he saw no problem in a possible legal battle with Padaca.

"There is no problem about that. We will answer her charges before the court. We are in good faith. For us in Alcala, the money is deposited in a trust fund," he said.

But Padaca said that as a collecting agent of the provincial government, a town "has no right to impose conditions where the money should go."

"Nowhere in the law does it say that they can put the money first in a trust fund," she said.

Dy said the predicament of the affected mayors was that the real property tax remittances were supposedly to be brought back to them in the form of infrastructure projects and social programs.

"But we see nothing of her projects in my town," he said. This was denied by Padaca. "You can ask the barangay captains," she said. "I have given a lot of projects, especially farm-to-market roads and multipurpose pavements. The projects I have given to barangays, including those in the six towns, have amounted to P65 million."

Dy said mayors who used the unremitted taxes for other programs are liable. But he said he

**PADACA**

believed the mayors did not use the money for other purposes.

"Padaca should have not waited for almost two years to file charges against us. She should have done it immediately. We are ready," he said.

But Padaca said she "gave (the mayors) enough time to respond to all the efforts that my office was making."

"The provincial treasurer has repeatedly gone to see (them) personally to remind them of their obligation to remit the provincial share of the (real property taxes) but to no avail."

Dy assailed Padaca for not allocating money from the tax remittances for payment of teachers hired by the provincial government, and the non-activation of the JOCA education board.

Padaca blamed the mayors for the delayed payment of salaries of teachers.

"(The teachers) had repeatedly gone to the mayors to appeal but all their pleas fell on deaf ears. Since I understand the plight of these poor teachers, I caused the payment of their salaries even though I was not receiving the provincial share of the taxes," she said.

As to the planned reelection bid of Padaca, Dy said: "There is nothing wrong in her plan to be reelected. Melvin Gascon and Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

**Foreign funds overshadow Marcos money in land reform**By Cristina Arzadon  
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LAOAG CITY THE MARCOS money intended for agrarian reform projects in this so-called Marcos Country has been overshadowed by foreign funds that the Department of Agrarian Reform has secured to support land reform beneficiaries.

Milton Pascua, DAR provincial chief, said the biggest slice of fund sources for the land reform program came from the World Bank's financing package that has been extended to Ilocos Norte's agrarian reform communities (ARCs) since 1998.

"The irony of it is that Marcos money comes in trickles while we get the bulk of funds from foreign

sources," said Pascua, who is also provincial project director of the WB's agrarian reform community development project (ARCDP).

Ilocos Norte is one of 10 provinces in the country whose ARCs benefit from the \$60-million WB development financing program.

The six-year program is part of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's commitment to make agriculture-based economies in Third World countries equally stable as their industrial-based counterparts.

Pascua said more than P300 million in WB-assisted projects had been completed in 12 towns—Solsona, Marcos, Bacarra, Pasuquin, Pagudpud, Banna, Dumalag, Piruli, Dingras,

Carasi, Bangui and Paoy. The beneficiaries are classified from fourth-class to sixth-class municipalities.

In January, the WB started implementing the second phase of its assistance program.

Pascua said the Japan Bank for International Cooperation has pumped in some P76 million to complement the DAR's development assistance program. Projects funded by JBIC were completed separately from 1999 to 2004.

In contrast, projects funded by the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program from 1997 to 2005 only reached P15 million, Pascua said.

The money recovered from Marcos' alleged ill-gotten wealth is principally funding the CARP

"We could not keep track of how much Marcos money is really used for the CARP because DAR is only one of the CARP-implementing agencies," Pascua said, adding that the amount he cited was only for the DAR.

Other government agencies like the Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Agriculture, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the Department of Labor and Employment, which are part of the CARP implementing team, also receive funds from the Marcos wealth.

Pascua said the agrarian reform program was in danger of being closed down because the law implementing the program mandated its end in 2008.

**Int'l experts say RP becoming complacent about AIDS, HIV**

BAGUIO CITY—BIRD FLU HAS been hogging the headlines for years now that people forget about a pandemic creeping in their midst.

Wing-Sie Cheng, United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) East Asia and Pacific regional adviser for HIV/AIDS, said both bird flu and HIV were threats but HIV had a more enduring effect on people.

"Bird flu is traumatic but the rise in death is short-term. HIV, because of its nature, is more enduring. It has an asymptomatic period from seven to eight years," she said.

Unicef just concluded a regional conference on renewed HIV/AIDS response in the region.

Complacency about AIDS caused the Philippines to deny a budget for the national AIDS program, the UN program on HIV/AIDS said.

The Department of Health's an-

nual budget for AIDS since 2003 has been almost P10 million, the same money infused in 1993 when the country began its AIDS program.

Its budget in the mid-1990s rose to P45 million and has gone down since.

On the other hand, the DOH budget for its bird flu program amounted to P300 million.

"HIV prevention requires ongoing reinforcement and adaptation to changing needs and risk behaviors. Unfortunately, there are signs that some countries that have avoided major epidemics are reducing official support for their national AIDS response, particularly prevention programming," the UN AIDS report said.

Cheng said the Philippines would have to step up surveillance and testing program for AIDS. "Ninety percent of those tested positive for HIV did not know that they have it until

they were tested," she said.

The rate of infection in the Philippines is still low and slow, which, Cheng said, is "interesting."

"There are sex workers but not as many as in the other countries in the region. There is also the issue of geography because the islands are far apart, and maybe religion (is a factor, too)," she said.

The DOH said 11,168 HIV-positive people, aged 15 to 49, were living in the country. About 86 percent of HIV-positive people contracted the virus through sex.

Cheng said the AIDS surveillance in the Philippines is "quite accurate" so the low figure is not anomalous.

But there is one vulnerable part of the population which could be a spark plug of the HIV explosion in the country, she warned. Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau



A POSTER boy, or girl, for the fight against AIDS and HIV, take the stage in Baguio City to discuss the threat of HIV and the Philippine government's seeming complacency in dealing with it.



# Congress urged to pass new law penalizing irresponsible parents



TWO GIRLS enjoy their stay under the Malalam Bridge in Ilagan, Isabela, during a break from household chores.

"IF THEY CANNOT RAISE THEIR children well, put them behind bars"

This was the appeal made by a professor of the University of the Philippines' Population Institute (UPPI) to legislators to pass House Bill No. 4110 providing penalties for irresponsible parents who could not provide the basic needs and rights of their children.

"Basically, children's rights are to have a good life and a better future. If their parents could not give that to them and (they) end up as the country's problem when they grow up, then let's impose sanctions," Dr. Zelda Zablan, chair of the Reproductive Health Advocacy Network of the UPPI, told the INQUIRER.

Zablan reiterated that the country's population growth rate had remained "on the uprend" and had not even come close to the administration's target.

Zablan's group is calling for increased use of contraceptives, such as condoms, pills and intrauterine devices, for women to have tubal ligation, and for men

to have vasectomy.

The Catholic Church is against the bill, saying it suggests access to artificial methods of population management.

"What is controversial with the bill? If they don't like to prevent pregnancy, it will only lead to abortion. It is the right of every child to be born and given a responsible life. Unwanted pregnancy will only lead to abortion," Zablan said.

Denna Diezon, a community development specialist of a World Bank-funded project in Central Mindanao, supported Zablan's appeal. "It's better to prevent pregnancy rather (than) abortion," Diezon said.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles told Zablan's group that congressmen would fast-track deliberations on HB 4110.

"It's controversial. We will see to it that it will be balanced. We want to discuss it publicly so that the people can vote diligently," Nograles said. *Jeffrey Maier, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

## ARMM teachers complain of delayed salaries

COTABATO CITY—DESPITE GOV. Zaldy Pui Uy Ampatuan's order for the Department of Education to pay salaries on time, public school teachers continue to complain of delayed wage releases.

An elementary teacher in Sultan Kudarat, who asked not to be identified, said she and hundreds of other teachers had yet to receive their pay for April.

She also complained of the tedious process of collecting their salaries. "I can't understand why, with the advent of technology in giving out salaries, we are asked to personally claim our meager and hard-earned money from DepEd regional office," she said.

Samson Gogo, ARMM spokesperson, clarified that the "personal withdrawal" of salaries was temporary. "Once they claim their pay and the DepEd knows they were the ones receiving their pay in the past, the process will be changed," Gogo said.

"Unlike before, school principals and budget officers could claim the salaries of their teachers but the money ended up in the wrong persons or nonexistent teachers and employees," he said.

Speaking to DepEd officials on Monday, Ampatuan reiterated an earlier directive to ensure that salaries and benefits of ARMM teachers were paid on time and

their premiums to the Government Service Insurance System and contributions to other insurance companies were properly remitted.

He warned education officials defying his order of disciplinary and administrative sanctions.

High school teachers, according to the complaining elementary teacher from Sultan Kudarat, have no problem getting their pay.

"I don't know why for us elementary teachers, it is different," she said, adding that a lot of teachers preferred to wait in silence for fear of repercussions if they go public.

Gogo said the complaint was being looked into. He urged the teachers to go direct to the DepEd office to air their grievances.

Upon assuming office in October last year, Ampatuan created a special task force that conducted an inventory of all its teaching and non-teaching personnel, including all assets and pieces of property that included school buildings, furniture and other fixtures of the department.

The task force found that a huge amount of teachers' salaries actually went to "ghost" teachers or employees of the department.

*Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



RAIN GEAR

Davao's traditional costumes are suited for the changing weather. These women carry umbrellas just in time to bid farewell to the brief summer.

EYESPIRIT/UPPI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU



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## Get all Cha-cha info, Church tells voters

DAGUPAN CITY—ATTEND FORUMS, LISTEN, read and get as much information as you can.

This was the advice of church and local government leaders to residents here on the proposed Constitutional changes which they claimed would inevitably come, "whether we like it or not."

"I believe the Charter change is our destination, but there is no express train towards it. It cannot be rushed nor manipulated. We must do it slowly, surely, and with total disregard to the political agenda of those who are in power," Mayor Benjamin Lim said during a forum on Charter change on Thursday.

The forum was sponsored by the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV), the Lingayen-Dagupan Archdiocese and the city government.

Ambassador to the Holy See Henrietta de Villa, PPCRV chair, said the forum was conducted to find out the extent of knowledge of the people on the proposed changes to the 1987 Constitution and to clear issues surrounding the proposals.

Cavite Rep. Jesus Crispin Remulla, who discussed the advantages and disadvantages of the proposed changes, said that "when the time comes to vote [on the proposals], everybody should be prepared to make a stand."

Lim said: "I am not a lawyer, nor am I well-versed in the intricacies of the law. But I am knowledgeable enough to know that the Constitution is the most fundamental law of the land. It is the manifestation of nothing less than the collective will of the Filipino people [and], therefore, it is only the Filipino people who are empowered to create the changes they want to see in our Constitution." *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

## Mining firm says probe body erred in tax rates

THE COMMISSION THAT INVESTIGATED TWO mine spills in Rapu-Rapu, Albay erred in the way it computed Lafayette Philippines Inc.'s (LPI) production figures to arrive at a conclusion that the firm did not pay proper taxes.

In a statement answering the charges made by the Bastes Commission, LPI said the error emanated from the commission's failure to understand the mining and milling process.

"If only the commission had asked us to explain, they could have spared us the temporary suspicion of fiscal irresponsibility, and themselves the embarrassment of being unmasked for a report that is biased, flawed, unscientific, and irresponsible," LPI said in a statement.

"The simplest way to explain this," it said, "is that bottom line, we paid the taxes based on production figures the commission said it should be based on. Put another way, we did not evade tax payments because we paid the amount the commission said we should pay."

The company said ore production was 70,000 metric tons in April-June 2005 to build up inventory for a July milling operation. Production from July to October reached 67,000 MT.



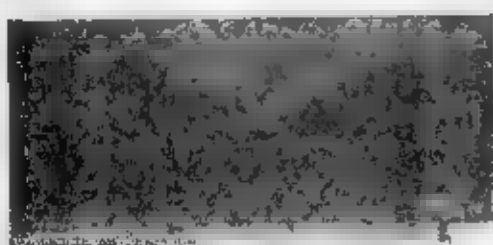
# Days of illegal fish pens in Laguna Lake numbered

ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY Angelo Reyes gave illegal fish pen operators in the Laguna Lake and seven other lakes in the province three months to demolish their structures or face penalties.

Reyes, in a statement, said he and Casimiro Ynares, general manager of the Laguna Lake Development Authority, agreed to remove all illegal fish pens in the lake to save it from further destruction.

The LLDA board of directors has approved the proposal.

Reyes said the government would allow the owners of the illegal fish pens, who include individuals, cooperatives, associations and corporations, to harvest their produce in three months, after which they would be compelled to demolish their cages.



**BAMBOO poles fence off fish pens in the Laguna Lake in Cardona, Rizal. The lake was declared polluted recently, serving as Metro Manila's septic tank.**

If they fail to do so, the DENR would cause the demolition of the structures and confiscate the materials, aside from imposing administrative and criminal sanctions against the fish cage operators.

Illegal fish cage structures are those constructed outside the designated fish cage or fish pen belts, or were built without an operation permit from the LLDA, Reyes said.

In a dialogue with the fish pen operators recently,

Reyes announced that the department would eradicate the illegal fish cage structures to preserve the required carrying capacity of the lakes.

In a later meeting, the LLDA board approved a plan for the revival of the lakes submitted by the DENR.

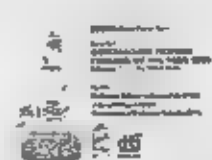
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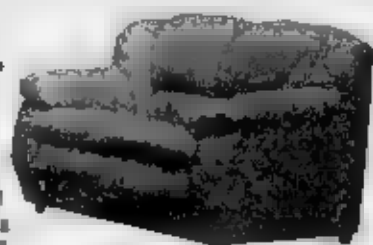
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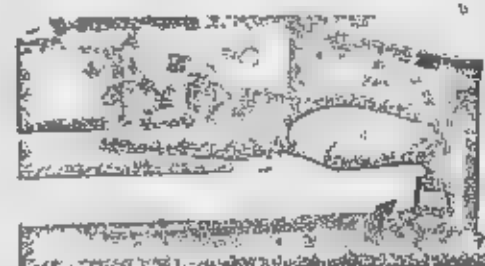
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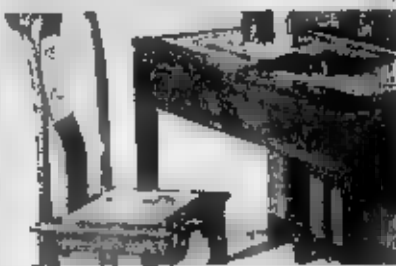
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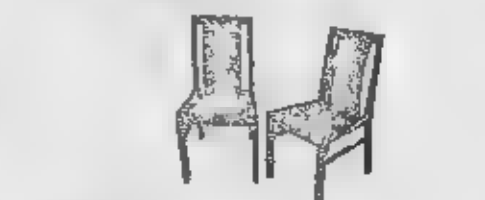
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## Pilita, Francis M complete trio of RP 'Idol' judges

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

**WHEN IT COMES TO "Philippine Idol," three is definitely not a crowd.**

Asia's Queen of Song Pilita Corrales and rapper-TV host Francis Magalona join award-winning composer Ryan Cayabyab as the judges of "Philippine Idol."

The final lineup of judges was confirmed by Perti Intalan, ABC 5's head of Creative and Entertainment Production. The local version of the world-famous "American Idol" reality-talent search begins airing on ABC 5 in July.

"It was only recently that we got to finalize the participation of all three judges," Intalan said. "They've met and they hit it off instantly."

Intalan said that the network put the three together in workshops that allowed them to interact with each other and "trial" contestants.

"All three came up with witty statements," Intalan described the workshops. "Ms Corrales was mouthing off one punchline after another. Sometimes she didn't have to say anything; her facial expression more than sufficed. Mr Magalona's background as a rapper and record producer also proved crucial. Lastly, Mr. Cayabyab could be the wild card among the three. He could surprise the viewers with his quick quips."

While Cayabyab was hand-picked for the part, Corrales and Magalona gamely auditioned and their screen tests were sent to "Idol" producer, FremantleMedia, based in the United Kingdom.

British TV executive Sheldon Bailey, a FremantleMedia supervising producer who is consultant to "Philippine Idol," told INQUIRER in an interview last April: "We give specific instructions to our franchisees not to look for a Simon Cowell."

Cowell is the notoriously

nasty judge on the original UK show "Pop Idol" and its United States version, "American Idol."

Thus was confirmed by Cayabyab in an interview conducted in March: "The producers encourage us to be ourselves. To be as Filipino as we are."

Intalan concurred: "From our choices it is evident that we didn't follow the AT template. We didn't look for a Cowell, a Paula Abdul or a Randy Jackson. We chose the three Filipino judges for who they are. We are very confident in our choices because we are certain that they'll pick contestants that deserve to go through."

Bailey pointed out: "More than anything else, we want judges who are passionate about music and who show genuine concern for the contestants."

Corrales, in an earlier interview, commented that she was raring to play an active part in discovering new talents.

"To succeed, young artists should love what they are doing," she said. "They should be professional."

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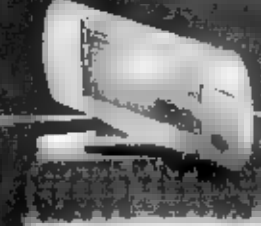
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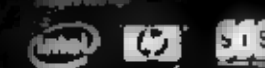
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# Shaw traffic rerouting reset

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

PASSING THROUGH SHAW Boulevard? You have more than two weeks to drive through your usual route.

The Mandaluyong City government announced yesterday that it has decided to postpone the implementation of its experimental traffic rerouting scheme on Shaw Boulevard to June 15 instead of June 1.

Traffic enforcers in the area, however, will be holding a "dry run" to familiarize motorists

with the new routes, Mandaluyong City Mayor Neptali Gonzales II told the INQUIRER yesterday. Gonzales announced last week that the new traffic scheme, aimed at decongesting Shaw Boulevard in time for the school opening, would take effect on Monday.

"We want more time for information dissemination. I also want signboards not only announcing the closure of the streets, but also instructing motorists about what alternate route to take," Gonzales said.

"If we see improvements, we will make the new routes permanent," he added.

From being two-way side streets, the following routes will soon be one way: Bernardo Street from Haig Street to Shaw; Shaw Boulevard; Magalona Street from Shaw to Haig; Gomezville from Shaw to Guerrero Street; Luna Mencias going out to Shaw; Pilar Street from Shaw to Calderon Street; Mabini Street from Shaw to San Juan; Ideal Street from Shaw to Lee Street; Laurel

Street from Shaw to Lee; Lee Street from Laurel St. to Shaw; Old Wack Wack Road from Shaw and Sto. Cristo Street going to Shaw. From Shaw (Pasig-bound), no left turn on Bernardo, Luna Mencias, Lee, L. Cruz, Araullo, Gomezville, Torres, Calderon, Pilar Mabini, Ideal and S. Laurel Streets.

No U-turns are allowed at Samat St., and flyover to Sheridan/San Miguel Sts., while there will be no crossing at Vicencio, Guerrero, Torres, Calderon and E. Rodriguez Sts.

## Female prosecutor a Jekyll and Hyde type

THERE MUST BE SOMETHING wrong with this woman.

I'm referring to Prosecutor Olivia Non who held a press conference and recanted all the things she had said in a signed and sworn affidavit detailing supposed sexual exploits she had with some Department of Justice officials.

Non first sought the help of a friend and colleague, Tony Calvento, in accusing Prosecuto Attorney Alexander Suarez of sexually harassing her. Calvento and Non were allegedly having an affair at the time.

I saw Non at the office of the radio program, "Hustisya Para sa Lahat" hosted by Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez. Gonzalez and I have programs at dwtz.

Non showed me a copy of her affidavit linking top DOJ officials and alleged sexual activities happening inside their offices.

I had no second thoughts about believing Non since she's a government prosecutor. She even said that after a senior prosecutor had sex with her, he passed her on to other prosecutors. She said she agreed to have sex with them so she would get promoted.

I wrote about her complaint and that of another female prosecutor that she said was also a victim of "sex for promotion" scheme in this column (see April 11 column). I didn't mention the names of the male prosecutors, only their jumbled initials, as I wanted to play safe. It now turns out I was right about playing safe. Non has made a 180 degree turn.

She accused Calvento, her erstwhile boyfriend, of having forced her to make those confessions damaging to her as well as to her

DOJ superiors. I'm now sure she has a split personality, a Dr Jekyll and Hyde type. I suspected something was wrong with Non after she accused a former justice secretary and solicitor general of harassing her and kissing her on the lips inside his office recently.

This man, a friend of mine and Calvento's, was supposed to give her legal support in her battle with a subordinate prosecutor she accused of sexually harassing her.

She had complained to Calvento about the supposed harassing and kissing. Calvento had taken her to this man's of-

fice. I know the man. he would never do that to a prospective client, much more to a woman who was his friend's girlfriend.

Calvento apparently realized he was having an affair with a liar and drove her out of his house. I know because Calvento told me about it days before Non's press conference. I talked to Calvento after he broke up with Non. He told me about the lurid details of sex that Non supposedly told him she had with still another prosecutor. According to Calvento, she told him that after she supposedly had sex with the prosecutor, she was also "given" to his bodyguards.

The sex act was supposed to have taken place inside a motel with a "love seat." She was supposed to have been tied to the love seat while the guards took turns molesting her. Was she telling another fictitious story?

If Non's confession, which she recanted later, comes out in the newspapers, the story would be X-rated.

And it would bring shame and scandal to the Department of Justice, even if the story were fictional.

### ON TARGET



Ramon Tulfo

## METROBRIEFS

### Children's festival

SOME 300 children from all over the country will gather in Manila to attend a three-day arts and cultural festival which will highlight their rights and responsibilities. The festival, with the theme: "Wow Bata 2. Bata, Karapata'y Ihayag sa Sining at Kultura Ilahad," will kick off today with a parade in Intramuros with participants dressed in their native costumes. "This event stresses the importance of performing arts as a powerful tool in educating the public about the pressing issues faced by Filipino children today," said Malou Sevilla of Plan Philippines. The international child-centered organization organized the three-day festival aimed at showcasing children's talents in different art forms such as dance, music and visual arts with themes that revolve around their issues and concerns. The festival will be held until June 1. Tina G. Santos

### Fire in Las Piñas

FIRE swept through a crowded community in Las Piñas City before dawn yesterday, razing 10 houses and leaving P800,000 worth of damage. Senior Insp. Robert Pacis said the blaze might have been triggered by an unattended candle since the houses on San Jose Street, Ilaya Extension, had been without electricity for several hours before the fire broke out after 1 a.m. yesterday. Re-

sponding firemen had trouble putting out the fire, which reached the third alarm, because of the narrow streets leading to the community. "We had to use at least 10 hoses to reach the fire scene," Pacis told the INQUIRER yesterday. Only one was hurt during the incident, but fire officials failed to identify the victim. The victim, Pacis added, suffered minor lacerations. Jocelyn A. Uy

### Ban on short skirts

THE NATIONAL Capital Region Police Office has issued a memorandum reminding policewomen to wear their proper uniform. The reminder came after some officials of the Philippine National Police and the National Police Commission observed that some policewomen in a few stations in different parts of the country were not in proper uniform. The NCRPO observed that some policewomen wore skirts that were three to five inches above the knees. Others were wearing unauthorized shoes while some had long hair which was "not properly arranged." The memorandum reminded policewomen that the length of their skirts should be up to the "mid-kneecap" while their hair should not reach the collar. Those sporting long hair should keep it under a "conservative black hair net" since colorful ribbons are also prohibited. Lastly, policewomen should refrain from wearing dangling earrings. Edson C. Tandoc Jr.



## Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

Manila, Philippines

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors and other interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project/Short Description	One (1) lot - One (1) year supply of manpower equipment, tools and supplies for the servicing and maintenance of landscaped areas, approximately 15,000 sq.m. at the Security Plant Complex (SPC) per BSP scope of work and special terms and conditions
Approved Budget for the Contract	P2,057,000.00
Duration of Contract	One (1) year

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar project within the last five (5) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	29 May 2006 to 15 June 2006
2. Pre-bid Conference	18 June 2006 - 4:00 PM
3. Opening of Bids	04 July 2006 - 2:00 PM
4. Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR) of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003
5. Post-qualification	
6. Notice of Award	

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of non-refundable amount of P1,030.00 to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) MELPINA GONZAGA

Vice-Chairman

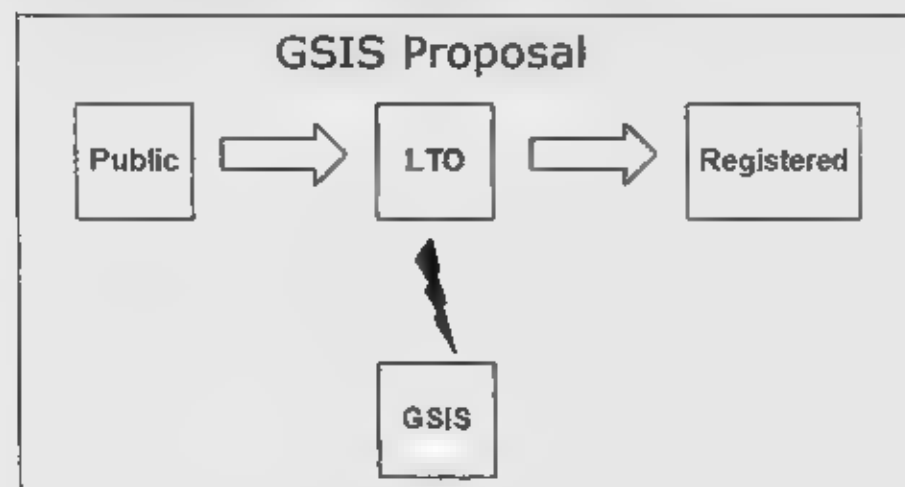
(PDI May 30, 2006)

## Why wait two days?

The Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) proposes to become the official Compulsory Third Party Liability (CTPL) insurer of ALL motor vehicles in the country.

The benefits of a GSIS Certificate of Cover (COC)

- ✓ Convenience
- ✓ Electronic processing, no manual intervention
- ✓ 100% Accuracy and consistency with LTO requirements
- ✓ 0% Opportunity for Corruption
- ✓ 100% Guaranteed Tax Remittance



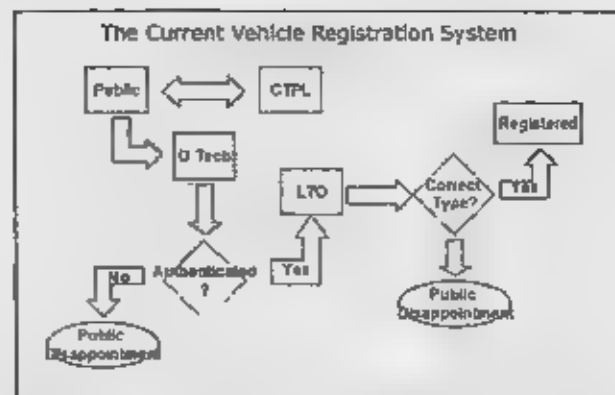
The GSIS proposal is as easy as 1, 2, 3.

- One, vehicle owners go to LTO.
- Two, LTO includes the COC in the registration fees.
- Three, the vehicle is registered.

### The GSIS advantage

- ✓ Faster registration
- ✓ 24-hour Call Center to handle claim reports and requests for assistance
- ✓ No need to produce registration papers
- ✓ No need to present proof of insurance (because the COC is already in the LTO system)

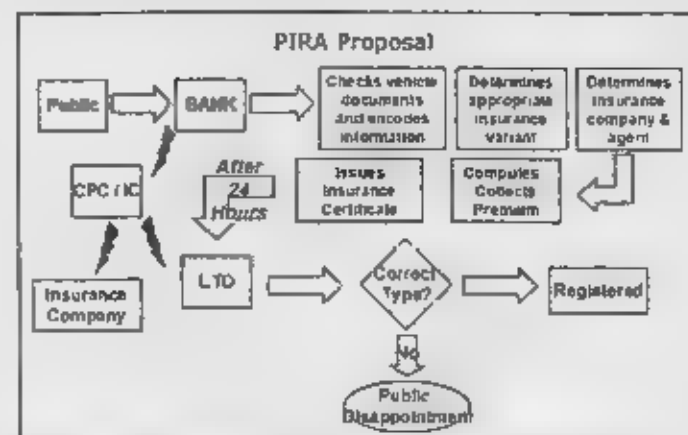
When you can have your vehicle registered in one hour.



- The present registration process does not check whether CTPL is valid. Many fixers take advantage of this by selling fake COCs.

- Due to the proliferation of fake COCs, many motorists are unable to get their P50,000 claim in case of accidents.

- It is estimated that 46.41% of vehicles ply the roads using fake COCs, putting the motoring and commuting public at risk.



- Instead of simplifying it, the proposal of private insurers (PIRA), complicates the entire vehicle registration process.

- Vehicle owners must first go to authorized banks to pay for their insurance.

- Registrants agonize for 24 hours before getting their COCs. Only then can they start registering their vehicles.

- The whole PIRA process means you have to wait for two days to register your vehicles, if you're lucky.



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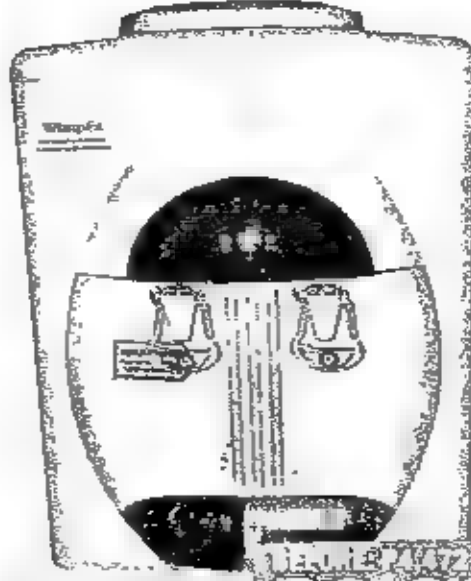
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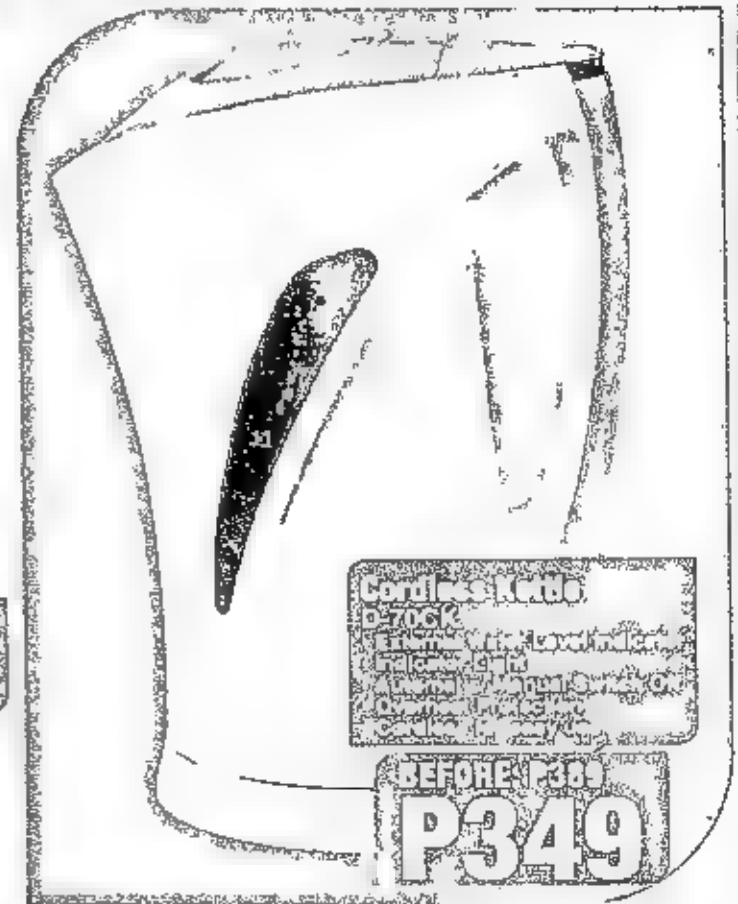
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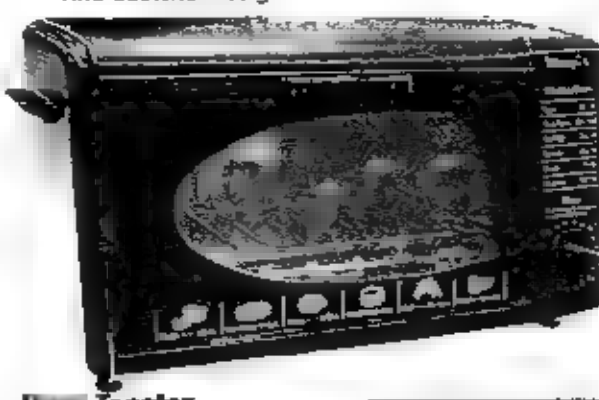
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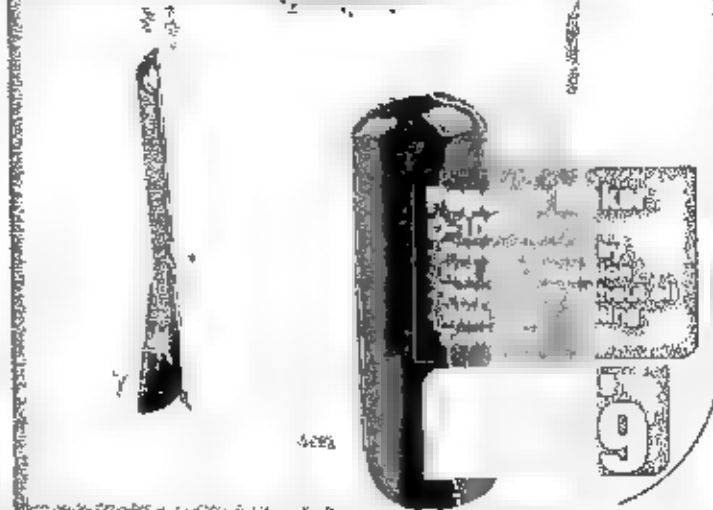
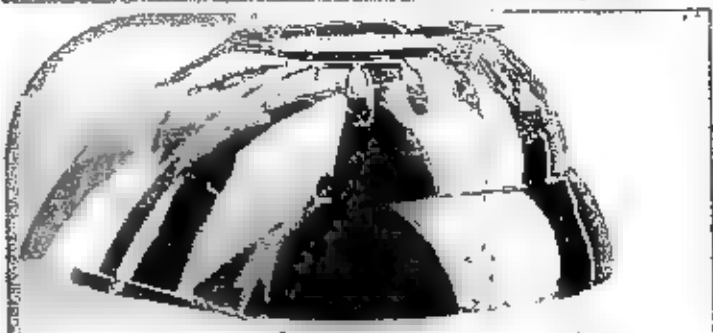
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## The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

## German Pope visits Auschwitz



POPE Benedict XVI signs a book after prayers in front of the death wall in the courtyard of block 11 at Nazi camp Auschwitz May 28 in Oswiecim.

OSWIECIM, POLAND—POPE BENEDICT XVI PRAYED at the Auschwitz concentration camp Sunday and denounced the mass murder of Europe's Jews by his native country's World War II rulers, saying it was hard for "a pope from Germany" even to speak of the Holocaust.

"To speak in this place of horror, in this place where unprecedented mass crimes were committed against God and man, is almost impossible—and it is particularly difficult and troubling for a Christian, for a pope from Germany," he said.

"In a place like this, words fail, in the end, there can be only a dread silence," Benedict said in Italian, "a silence which itself is a heartfelt cry to God.

Why, Lord, did you remain silent?"

Benedict said that just as his predecessor, John Paul II, had visited "this dreadful place" as a Pope in 1979, he came as "a son of the German people." He mostly avoided his native language, however, speaking in Italian and using German for just one short prayer.

"The rulers of the Third Reich wanted to crush the entire Jewish people, to cancel it from the register

of the peoples of the earth," he said, standing near the demolished crematoriums where the Nazis burned the bodies of their victims.

"By destroying Israel with the Shoah, they ultimately wanted to tear up the taproot of the Christian faith and to replace it with a faith of their own invention."

Shoah is the Hebrew term for the killing of six million Jews by the Nazis during World War II.

As many as 1.5 million people, most of them Jews, died at Auschwitz and Birkenau, neighboring camps built by the German occupiers near the Polish town of Oswiecim. Others who died there included Poles, Soviet prisoners of war, Roma, or Gypsies, and political opponents of the Nazis.

## Uribe, US ally, wins 2nd term in Colombia

BOGOTA—COLOMBIA'S PRESIDENT ALVARO Uribe, a staunch US ally, Sunday won a second term by a landslide he said he would celebrate by the tomb of his father, killed by the leftist insurgents he has pledged to defeat.

"With the heroism of our soldiers, we will move forward to have a more secure Colombia," said Uribe, who has stepped up military operations against armed groups since he came to office in 2002.

Uribe, a US- and British-educated lawyer, won reelection with 62 percent of the votes and a 40-point lead over his closest rival, left Sen. Carlos Gaviria.

His reelection bucks the political trend in a region dominated by leftist leaders whose relationship with Washington is often lukewarm.



URIBE: Tough work ahead.

Uribe is credited with reopening roads once controlled by bandits or insurgents, reducing crime rates, stepping up the offensive against leftist rebels, and reaching a pact that demobilized right-wing paramilitary fighters.

"Democratic security has started to regain the liberties that terrorism had taken from us," he told jubilant supporters gathered at a Bogota hotel after Sunday's voting.

An austere, yoga-practicing workaholic, Uribe said he would continue his crackdown against violence and drug trafficking in the South American country that ranks as the region's most violent, and the world's top producer of cocaine.

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## BBC: 1,000 UK troops have deserted Iraq war

LONDON—AT LEAST 1,000 troops have deserted Britain's armed forces since the US-led war was launched in Iraq three years ago, the BBC reported Sunday.

Britain's defense ministry said however it knew of only "a handful" of deserters since 1989.

During 2005 alone, 377 people deserted and are still missing, the British Broadcasting Corp. said on its website, adding that so far this year another 189 are on the run.

Without explaining how it arrived at the figures, it said some 900 deserters have evaded capture since the Iraq war started in March 2003.

Lawmaker John McDonnell told parliament on Monday that the "number of absconders has tripled since the invasion of Iraq" as he registered opposition to a government bill to sentence deserters to a maximum of life in prison.

McDonnell, who is among a leftwing group within the governing Labor party, said Sunday that the ministry of defense's denial "flies in the face of all the other evidence and the experience of



A BRITISH soldier securing an area in Basra May 28.

The BBC cited lawyers who represent troops at courts-martial as saying that growing numbers of soldiers are seeking advice from them about avoiding service in Iraq, even if they want to stop short of deserting.

Some 110 British troops have died in Iraq. Some 7,200 British servicemen and women are currently deployed in southern Iraq and neighboring Kuwait, where members of the Royal Air Force and other

## WORLD BRIEFS

## Crisis talks in Timor in face of chaos

DILI—East Timor's divided government held crisis talks on Monday following days of chaos that have pushed the nation close to civil war as desperate residents went looking in search of food. While foreign peacekeepers patrolled the violence-scarred capital, angry crowds demanded the resignation of Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri, who has been widely criticized over the country's rapid descent into anarchy. Ethnic mobs have clashed in the streets using everything from machetes to bows and arrows, burning down houses and businesses and causing fears that an east-west rivalry in the tiny country could end up in civil war. Hundreds of protesters gathered outside the presidential palace as Alkatiri held talks inside with President Xanana Gusmao, a folk hero among East Timorese after spearheading the impoverished nation's bloody independence struggle. "Alkatiri is a terrorist! We will kill him! Viva Gusmao!" hundreds of protesters shouted outside the presidential palace. Fr. Edward Dopa, principal of Dili's St. Joseph's College, said East Timor's people were anticipating major changes from the meeting. "People are waiting for the president to take strong action," he said. "Alkatiri has not been able to rule properly. There's been a power vacuum and the gangs have taken advantage of the situation to attack the people."

## Pentagon seeking non-nuke sub missile

NEW YORK—The Pentagon is pressing Congress to approve the development of a new weapon that would enable the United States to carry out non-nuclear missile strikes against distant targets within an hour, The New York Times reported in its Monday edition. Citing unnamed military officials, the newspaper said the proposal has set off a complex debate about whether this program for strengthening the military's conventional capacity could increase the risks of accidental nuclear confrontation. The Pentagon plan calls for deploying a non-nuclear version of the submarine-launched Trident I missile that could be used to attack terrorist camps, enemy missile sites, suspected caches of biological, chemical or nuclear weapons and other potentially urgent threats. The report said if fielded, it would be the only non-nuclear weapon designed for rapid strikes against targets thousands of miles away and would add to the president's options when considering a preemptive attack, The Times pointed out. Gen. James Cartwright, head of the US Strategic Command, said the system would enhance the Pentagon's ability to "preempt conventionally" and precisely while limiting the "collateral damage," the paper reported.



## SPORTS

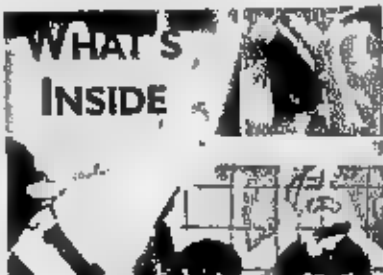
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WHAT'S INSIDE

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■ Monaco GP first for Alonso /A23

■ French Open: Sharapova eludes axe /A23



# Rout of Iceland caps RP twin kill

By Roy Lvarca

**TURIN, ITALY—THE PHILIPPINES TURNED hot and melted Iceland in the 37th Chess Olympiad Sunday.**

Creating a ripple, the Filipinos trounced the all-grandmaster Icelanders, 3.5-0.5, in the seventh round, to barge into contention halfway through the biennial event at the Olympic Village here.

Grandmaster Mark Paragua, GM Rogelio Antonio Jr. and Fide Master Oliver Dimakiling won their matches as the Philippines padded its total to 18 points and jumped to a share of 14th place with Round 8 opponent China, second-ranked India, Bulgaria, Belarus and Greece.

The Filipinos made it a double celebration by dumping the 50th-

seeded Finland squad, 2.5-0.5.

Woman National Master Catherine Perefia and upcoming Sheryl Qua notched the full point against WIM Tanya Rantanen and Laura Savala on boards 2 and 3 while WIM-elect Sheerie Joy Lomibao split the point with WIM Nina Samalva on board 1.

Continuing their roller-coaster drive, the 60th-ranked Filipinos improved to 11.5 points and arranged a showdown with the 37th-seeded Iranians, who bowed to the Poles, 2-1, in Round 7.

"The players got pumped up by



ANTONIO: Stunning upset

the presence of National Chess Federation of the Philippines president Rep. Prospero "Butch" Pichay," said men's skipper Sammy Estino. "He challenged them to blank Iceland."



PARAGUA: In just 27 moves

It nearly became a reality as reigning national champion Darwin Laylo was on the verge of victory against GM Henrik Danielsen on board 3, but missed the winning

move and settled for a draw on board 3.

Defly handling white, Paragua started the onslaught when he bested GM Hilfar Hannes Stefansson in just 27 moves of a Spanish Game.

Antonio followed suit by trouncing former world championship challenger Johann Hjartarswon in 44 moves of a Nimzo-Indian Defense.

The 26-year-old Dimakiling completed the rout by humbling GM Throstur Thornhall in 47 moves of a Queen's Pawn Opening.

Pichay, who arrived Sunday afternoon and opted to stay with the Philippine delegation at the Olympic Village, again ordered the two squads to go all-out for victories in Round 8 on Monday.

Elated by the results, Estino and women's team captain Cesar Caturla decided to field the same players

against the Chinese, who will parade three super GMs, and the Iranians.

Paragua (Elo 2617) faces Bu Xianghu (2640), Antonio meets Zhang Zhong (2640), Daylo battles (Zhang Pengxiang (2623) and Dimakiling, who has a sore throat, tackles Wang Yue (2598).

In their last Olympiad confrontation in the 2000 Istanbul Olympiad, the Philippines edged China, 2.5-1.5, courtesy of IM Edelfonso Datu, who downed former Asian junior champion Wu Wenjin.

The 22-year-old Paragua said he had beaten Bu once in 1998 in the world rapid tourney but has yet to meet the Chinese in standard play.

With 21 points, Armenia passed top favorite Russia in men's play, although the Russians continued to pace the women's side with 17.5 points, a point ahead of Ukraine.

**MEN**  
21—Armenia; 20—Russia; 19.5—Cuba, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, Georgia, Czech Republic; 18.5—Netherlands, United States, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, France; 18—China, Bulgaria, Belarus, Greece, India, Philippines

**WOMEN**  
17.5—Russia; 16.5—Ukraine;

## STANDINGS AFTER 7 ROUNDS

15.5—United States; 16—Hungary, Georgia; 14.5—Bulgaria, Slovenia; 14—Vietnam, China, Latvia; 13.5—Romania, France, India, Armenia, Germany, Slovenia; 13—Cuba, Esto-

nia, Netherlands, Belarus; 12.5—Switzerland, Poland, Israel, Argentina, Serbia & Montenegro, Greece, Spain, Ecuador; 12—Italy, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Turkey, Mongolia; 11.5—Denmark, Croatia, Indonesia, Moldova, Iran, Philippines

RP 8th round pairings: Men—vs. China; Women—vs. Iran

## Pacquiao-Larios tango

By Hermie Rivera

LESS THAN A MONTH INTO THE FIGHT, Manny Pacquiao and Oscar Larios have started beating up their sparmates as they stepped up work for their July 2 slugfest at the Araneta Coliseum.

Pacquiao this early has been installed by the bookmakers as a heavy favorite owing to his ability to make sense of what he sees atop the ring anytime he fights.

But Larios himself is not an easy out.

While we go into the so-called stretch, essential aspects of the promotion such as ticket outlet locations and the like remain a guarded secret while inquiring minds want to know who is the real promoter of this mano a mano.

Pacquiao hasn't really had a bona fide promoter since Murad Muhammad and Gary Shaw were removed from the scene.

We gather that promotional activities are being handled by Manny's managers, Shelly Finkel and Nick Khan, when they pulled together with Manny, a \$4,000,000 package from ABS-CBN.

Question—Will Finkel and Khan be delivering the undercard, paying production costs, and making ancillary deals? If so, they could be running afoul of the Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act—15 U.S.C. Section 6308 which provides:

(b) Firewall between promoters and managers (1) In general, it is unlawful for (A) a promoter to have a direct or indirect financial interest in the management of a boxer; or (B) a manager (i) to have a direct or indirect financial interest in the promotion of a boxer; or (ii) to be employed by or receive compensation or other benefits from a promoter, except for amounts received as com-

PACQUIAO-LARIOS/ A23



PACQUIAO

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**Shell Makes New Guinness World Record**

On Fuel Economy Travelling in Europe with the Taylors

John and Helen Taylor started their epic journey in London on January 17, 2006. They passed through France and Belgium and proceeded to drive through the flatlands of Holland then Germany where they sampled generous portions of bratwurst during their first team meal together. Their first tough challenge came when they took on the mountainous landscape of Switzerland and were met with hazardous weather conditions brought about by the snow.

The Taylors had their first re-fuelling of the new Shell Fuel Economy gasoline in Italy and later got stuck in a terrible three-hour traffic jam in Milan. It was here that they were again reminded of the importance of staying calm for better fuel efficiency driving. Passing through the scenic mountain ranges and the Danube plains of Austria, the Taylors then proceeded to the Czech Republic where they spent one day of travelling in temperatures 15° below zero, with snow and bitter winds arriving as they left the country on their way to Slovakia.

The team then went through Hungary and Serbia where the latter's conditions were not ideal for fuel efficiency driving primarily because of the stark contrast between the flatness of the north and the vast mountains and dense forests of the south worsened by poor conditions in some roads. In mountainous Macedonia, the Taylors drove through its deep basins and valleys where their driving skills were yet again put to the test. The last stop in their European leg was in Greece where they had to take on steep and winding roads brought about by the diverse terrain of mountain ranges and coastal landscapes.

Despite the fact that everything seemed to be conspiring against achieving fuel efficiency, this part of the journey found Shell and the Taylors on track in their goal of completing a new Guinness World Record, which they did on April 4, 2006. During the European leg of their great adventure, they were able to cover 5,590 kilometers in eight (8) days of driving in very extreme conditions. This ultimate road test of the new Fuel Economy Formula is testament to Shell's commitment in developing fuels that address motorists' needs for greater fuel economy.

See more of the Taylors' record-breaking journey with Shell at [www.fuelchallenge.com](http://www.fuelchallenge.com).



## Sparks, Portmasters seek 2nd wins

"We need to improve on the execution

The Portmasters scraped through, 85-79, as backup point guard Chico Lanete

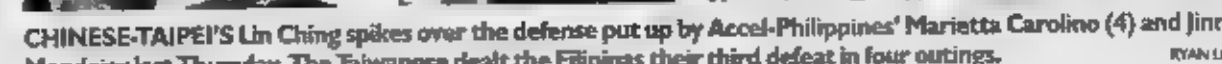
The Sparks had a more balanced offensive performance in their Game 1 triumph.

Shooting woes also hit the Jewels in Game 1, allowing the Portmasters to

Fil-Am Rob Reyes also stepped up in the Portmasters' third straight win, contributing 16 points and nine rebounds off the bench. *Jasmine W. Payo*

## Chinese test struggling RP spikers today

The sixth-ranked Filipinas, who will be playing the last match against tournament darkhorse Thailand tomorrow, have been turning to national team standouts Cherry Rose Macatangay, Mary Jean Balse and Michel Carolino.



The games will be shown on Solar Sports from 1 p.m. to 12 a.m. on June 5 to 11, and on IBC 13 from 6 p.m. starting on June 12.

## Assad stuns Macatangay in Olivarez junior tennis

8 Other results: 18-under—Aiko Katgbak d. Fran Rivera, 5-3, 6-2; Riel Florea d. Justin Mendoza, 6-2, 6-4.

## The first is last

\_\_\_\_\_

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## Tiu leads Team Ere to 3 drag racing titles

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**1—(Drift)—Sardines (8)**  
 Bang Sval (6), Se Odon (9)

**Race 2—(PentaDrift)—**  
 Humble Guss (7), Speed  
 Assault (6), Engel Low  
 (8), Marjorie's Charm (3)  
 Shadow Quest (4)

**Race 3—(Drift)—He's A B to  
 Long (3), Gold Collar (8)**  
 Top Quest (3), Princess  
 Dance (7)

**Race 4—(PentaDrift)—**  
 Wind Runner (3), Rusty  
 Flies (1), Para D

**BY TOP CHOICE**

ru/Batang Westside (Lucy Joe [8], Mandi Sigs [8])

**Race 5—Pena/Ori/Tur**  
Bunker Buster (1), Muncian (14), At All Co (3), Miss One Babe (1)

Prince Vahnel (#10)  
Race 6—Prince Orville (#9)  
Rose (#8), Thrilla  
(5), Sinary Pantis (#4)  
Prop (#3) Country Boy  
Race 7—Pennis Orville  
dy Hannah (#4), Ho  
(3), Dynamic Jason  
Dora Gday (#1), Co  
Love (#3), Perfect Tim  
Race 8—Super G/O  
Federal Court (#7), K  
(2) Wet N Wild (#6),  
Clio Cho (#4), Lady T  
(6), Merry Prince (#3)



## SPORTS

# Bonds grabs 2nd over Ruth in MLB homer derby



BONDS: No. 715

SAN FRANCISCO—San Francisco Giants slugger Barry Bonds homered in Sunday's game against the Colorado Rockies to pass legendary Babe Ruth for second place on Major League Baseball's all-time home run list.

Bonds recorded his 715th career homer, placing him behind only record-holder

Hank Aaron, who hit 755.

"It's a great honor, it's a wonderful honor," Bonds said. "Hank Aaron to me is the home run king and I won't disrespect that ever."

"Babe Ruth has 714 home runs but Hank has 755. I have a lot of respect for Babe Ruth and I have a lot of respect for what he's done for the game of baseball, but I have to give the head up to Hank Aaron because he is the home run king."

Bonds smacked a two-run homer over the right-centerfield wall off a 3-ball, 2-strike pitch from Korean Byung-Hyun Kim in the fourth inning. But the Giants went on to lose, 6-3.

Bonds was pleased the homer came in San Francisco, where fans have continued to back him despite allegations of steroid use that have raised a debate over the legitimacy of his feats.

"For me to do it in front of the fans of San Francisco, it can't get any better than this," Bonds said. "I made them wait longer than I've made them wait in the past. But there was no greater place for this to happen than in San Francisco." AFP



DALLAS' Josh Howard blocks a driving James Jones of Phoenix.

# Mavs eclipse Suns for 2-1 series lead

## Dallas forces Phoenix meltdown in 2nd half

PHOENIX, ARIZONA—THE DALLAS MAVERICKS brought the National Basketball Association's most feared fast-break team to a standstill with a 95-88 semifinal playoff win over Phoenix Suns on Sunday.

Dirk Nowitzki had 28 points and 17 rebounds for the fourth-seeded Mavericks, who engineered a remarkable defensive effort in game three of their best-of-seven series.

"We were great with our transition defense," Nowitzki said. "Down the stretch we executed at both ends of the floor. Against this team no lead is safe because we know they can come back anytime."

Dallas stymied the second-seeded Suns in two-straight games after giving away the opener at home. Dallas improved to 5-2 on the road.

Mavericks coach Avery Johnson admitted that his team cannot afford to run with the Suns, who use a wide-open offense piloted by Canadian Steve Nash to press the tempo better than any team in the league.

To combat the run-and-gun Suns, Johnson has demanded patience on offense and hustle on defense.

"This is a big win for us but we have got to stay focused," Nowitzki said.

Second in the NBA in fast-break points during the season, Phoenix managed just four fast-break points Sunday—and zero in the second half. The offense grinded to a halt, totalling just 36

points after halftime and failing to reach 90 for the first time in the postseason.

Dallas got the offense it needed from Nowitzki, Josh Howard and Jason Terry, who combined for 40 of their 69 points in the second half.

Howard scored 16 of his 22 points and Terry 10 of his 19 after halftime.

The Mavericks also had the upper hand in effort and concentration. They held edges in rebounds (48-45), offensive rebounds (19-12) and steals (8-0) while committing just six turnovers and forcing 13. Nowhere was that more evident than down the stretch.

Trailing by as many as nine points in the fourth quarter, the Suns closed to 88-84 and had the ball when Tim Thomas made a lazy pass to Nash that was stolen by Howard, who went in for a layup with 2:10 left.

After Shawn Marion missed a three-pointer, the Mavericks held the ball for more than a minute, grabbing three offensive rebounds.

They may have received a break when Nowitzki's desperation 30-footer was ruled to have hit the rim and Terry sealed it with a jumper for a 92-84 bulge with 33 seconds to go.

Howard pulled down 12 rebounds for Dallas, which never trailed in the fourth quarter and won despite shooting 41 percent (39-of-95).

Nash scored 21 points, Boris Diaw added 20 and Leandro Barbosa 17 for the Suns, who shot 43 percent (35-of-82).

AFP

● NBA on TV

SOLAR SPORTS: 8 a.m.—Detroit vs. Miami (replay of 8 p.m.)

# Pacquiao-Larios tango

From page A21

sideration under the manager's contract with the boxer.

Manny has formed his own promotional company right?

Just what role will this company play in the promotion and who are the principals in charge? Will Finkel and Kahn use Pacquiao Promotions as a veil to shield their promotional activities? How will Finkel, Khan, Pacquiao Promotions and ABS-CBN operate? The roles are blurred—maybe purposely so—but it would be interesting to know "who's on first?"

While we wait for answers, may we suggest the immediate adoption of a strengthened version of the Muhammad Ali Act to help fighters who have been victimized by unscrupulous promoters and managers.

Our lawmakers officials can enact one if they so desire assuming they aren't into something mischievous such as coup d'etat or cha-chas.

# French Open: Sharapova eludes axe

PARIS—THE FRENCH OPEN STARTED on a Sunday for the first time and nearly ended quickly for Maria Sharapova.

The former Wimbledon champion overcame a gimpy foot, a 5-2 deficit in the third set and three match points to beat Mashona Washington 6-2, 5-7, 7-5.

The match was the first since April 1 for Sharapova, who withdrew from two events leading up to Roland Garros because of a right ankle injury. Her movement was clearly hampered, even after a trainer rewrapped the ankle following the second set.

But the 29-year-old Washington, who came into the tournament ranked 97th, failed to close out a win that would have been the biggest of her career. Sharapova won the final five games to limp into the second round.

"I was playing with pain, and I blocked it out somehow and started

moving better, and she got a little bit tight," Sharapova said. "I knew I wouldn't be playing 100 percent. I'm obviously not moving great."

Roland Garros added a 15th day of play this year to extend into a third weekend, and neither Sharapova nor top-ranked Roger Federer was thrilled with the early start. Federer lost his first two service games to fall behind 3-0, then gradually found his form and beat qualifier Diego Hartfield, 7-5, 7-6, 6-2.

Top-ranked Amelie Mauresmo of France pleased a partisan crowd by beating Meghan Shaughnessy, 6-4, 6-4. Mauresmo celebrated with a leaping fist pump when she broke serve in the next-to-last game, then finished with her eighth ace.

No. 14 Dinara Safina, No. 22 Ai Sugiyama and No. 25 Marion Bartoli also advanced.

Juan Antonio Marin and Kenneth Carlsen failed to snap long losing streaks. Marin fell to 0-17 in Grand Slam events—the worst record in the Open Era—when he lost to Carlos Moya 7-5, 6-3, 6-3. Carlsen's skid at Roland Garros reached nine consecutive matches, dating back to 1995, as he lost to Tim Henman, 6-3, 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.

No. 3-seeded David Nalbandian defeated Stanislas Wawrinka 6-2, 7-6 (5), 6-4. No. 7 Tommy Robredo swept Tomas Zib 6-4, 6-2, 6-2.

Washington kept Sharapova on the run with shots into the corners and reached her first match point at 5-3. Sharapova calmly erased it with a forehand winner. Washington held two more match points serving at 5-4, but lost the first with a backhand long, then lost her last one when Sharapova whacked another forehand winner.



MARIA Sharapova serves to courageous American Mashona Washington.

# Monaco breakthrough for Alonso

MONTE CARLO—THERE ISN'T MUCH LEFT FOR FERNANDO Alonso to accomplish in Formula One.

He won the world title last season at 24. He won in his native Spain and got to give King Juan Carlos a ride.

And on Sunday he won the Monaco Grand Prix.

"We did it," Alonso said.

The victory in Monte Carlo gave Alonso his second victory in a row, and his fourth this season.

"This is a special place for any driver to win a race, for the history, for what it represents to Formula One and because it is such a big challenge to get through the race with no mistakes," Alonso said.

And with the quick start this season, there is the distinct possibility of another season title. "In seven races, four wins and three seconds is a perfect start," he said.

In Sunday's race, Alonso was followed by Juan Pablo Montoya of McLaren-Mercedes and David Coulthard of Red Bull. It

was the first podium for Red Bull in an F1 race. Ironically, it was a future McLaren driver, a current McLaren driver and a past McLaren driver on the podium. Alonso heads to McLaren next year, and Coulthard won the Monaco race twice for McLaren.

Rubens Barrichello in a Honda was fourth with Michael Schumacher of Ferrari fifth and Giancarlo Fisichella sixth in a Renault.

The victory 12th of Alonso's career. He has 64 points with Schumacher on 43 going into the June 11 British Grand Prix. Raikkonen and Fisichella are tied for third with 27.

Alonso's task was made easier when Kimi Raikkonen of McLaren, last year's winner, dropped out and five-time Monaco champion Schumacher was penalized before the race began.

Alonso and Raikkonen were separated by less than a second through 50 laps when Raikkonen's engine gave out.

# Hornish edges rookie Andretti for Indy 500 title

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA—POLESITTER SAM Hornish edged teen rookie Marco Andretti by .06 of a second Sunday, winning the 90th Indianapolis 500 in the second-closest finish in race history. Hornish, whose best finish in six prior Indy 500s was 14th in 2001, overcame a pit stop penalty to outpace the grandson of racing legend Mario Andretti to the checkered flag in an all-American duel on the final straightaway. Hornish recovered from a penalty with 50 laps remaining after he pulled away from a pit stop before the fuel hose had been disconnected, tearing the nozzle loose as it stuck in the side of his car. He was forced back to the pits and punishment but rallied for a thrilling victory over Andretti.



FERNANDO Alonso of Renault salutes his fans after his maiden Monaco win.

# Adventure of a lifetime for five MAT bets

ENGINEERING STUDENT KRISTIAN Ryan Cruz was content to be picked as one of the 50 finalists who went through a three-day test of endurance and determination during the Marlboro Adventure Team trials in Tagaytay recently.

All along, he thought his adventure of a lifetime ended there.

But organizers of this year's final test were impressed with the skills the 20-year-old Cruz showed in negotiating tough trails on motorcycles and quads, rappelling, trekking, and driving 4x4 jeeps on tough terrain.

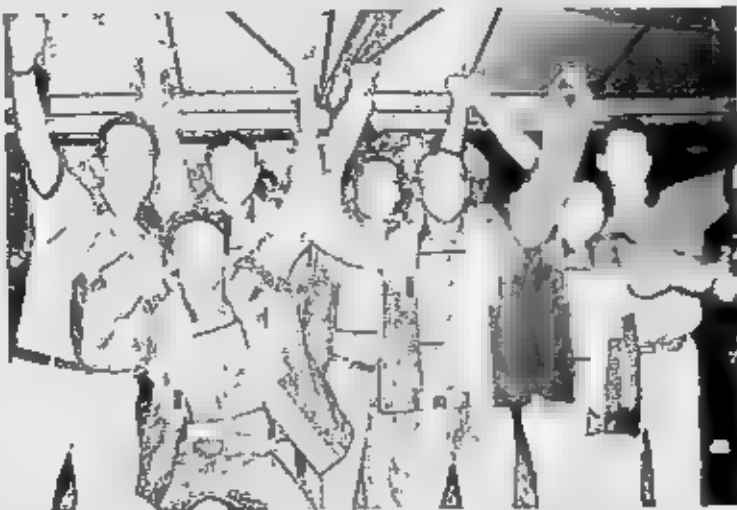
Nobody, except Cruz, was surprised when it was announced he

had made this year's MAT team that will experience 10 days of fun and adventure on the treacherous deserts of Moab, Utah, later this year.

"I expected them (selectors) to go for older guys, those in the 25-age range," Cruz said. "But I really tried my best."

Parokya ni Edgar bass player Buhawi Meneses, doctor Don Benjamin Serrano, businesswoman Diane Gretchen Basaca and call center coach Teodulfo Lumague III also made it to the team which was given a sendoff party recently at Le Pavilion on Roxas Boulevard.

The five emerged as the best



CHOSEN FEW: Buhawi Meneses, Don Serrano, Kristian Cruz, Too Lumague and Diane Basaca (second to sixth from left) whoop it up with Marlboro brand manager Eric Carandang (left) and PMPMI marketing director Maarten Kila during the recent sendoff party.

from some 555,000 adventure-seekers who answered the call of Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc. to determine this year's entries to the Moab adventure. The list was trimmed down to 2,000 after the first screening.

After interviews and tests, the list was further scaled down to the

final 50 aspirants who were given a taste of the adventure they will face in Moab through a three-day camp in Tagaytay.

"What we sought are those who have the spirit of adventure, camaraderie, team play, attitude and character," said PMPMI managing director Chris Nelson. "These are

the attributes needed to live through 10 days of adventure in the unforgiving landscape of Moab.

"Again, we have achieved what the MAT has always wanted to achieve, and that is to come up with a team that underlines what adventure is, that our there is freedom with nature."

Marlboro brand manager Eric Carandang, for his part, said: "The finalists in Tagaytay are actually already winners by themselves."

Young entrepreneur Basaca, one of only a few women among the finalists, echoed Cruz's sentiments.

"We were treated equally (in the finals) and we all enjoyed it," the 21-year-old Basaca said. "It's hard to think that you were in some kind of competition. I'll really train hard for Utah."

Meneses' passion for adventure had to take a backseat when Parokya ni Edgar started to stamp its mark on the local music scene more than a decade ago. This time, Meneses finally gets a chance to live his dream, a chance he considers once in a lifetime.

"The outdoors is my life," the 29-year-old Meneses said. "Music

got in the way; it became my profession. This is a big chance for me to get back to the outdoors. I didn't expect to go to places like Utah. The Tagaytay camp was already a big thing for me."

"It's a big achievement. I have always wanted to raise the RP flag and represent the Philippines in any way."

"This is unexplainable, the adrenalin is up my head," said the ecstatic Lumague. "We're going to train more. I didn't prepare that well for this, but for the US trip, we're going to train harder."

Free time is rare for Serrano but he is already planning to spend more time out of the hospital, and do more than just his usual light workout and jogging in the morning to get in the best possible shape for Moab.

"I'm so happy," Serrano said. "Look at all these people. All were good, all were very competitive, all were adventurous. I guess they saw something special in me. Maybe they saw my perseverance and the hard work I did in all of the challenges."

For these five, Moab beckons.



## SPORTS

## Olympic Festival lures 7,000 athletes

ABOUT 7,000 ATHLETES FROM 27 SPORTS will take part in the 1st Philippine Olympic Festival in venues all over the country from June 18-25.

Nueva Ecija hosts the Milo National Open in athletics, the Mindanao Civic Center in Tubod, Lanao del Norte, will be the venue of boxing; Tagaytay City will hold chess and sepak takraw events; while archery, canoe-kayak and equestrian will be held in Subic.

Several national sports associations (NSAs) will use the event, backed by local government units (LGUs), either as qualifying for the coming 15th Asian Games in Doha, Qatar, or to simply discover new talents.

"We are starting to build stronger ties with the LGUs," said POC chair Robert Avenajado. Tomas Joson III, the Nueva Ecija governor, welcomed the chance to host athletics in his province's newest pride—the multimillion peso Nueva Ecija Sports Complex.

"Nueva Ecija has been a consistent source of great Filipino athletes," Joson said. "In fact we want to be among the main sources of athletic potentials."

Tagaytay Mayor Abraham Tolentino said scenic Tagaytay aims to be the center not only of chess but of other sports.

"Everybody is welcome in Tagaytay City. We are actually inviting everybody here, not

only chess and sepak takraw," Tolentino said.

A part of the country's observance of the founding of the World Olympic Movement and the International Olympic Committee, the inaugural edition of the Philippine Olympic Festival will have 27 sports to be played simultaneously.

Other sports slated: aquatics (Taco College, Laguna), arts (SM Fairview), badminton (Rizal Memorial), basketball (FMS), baseball (Taguig City), billiards (FMS), bowling (PSC), Dragon Boat (Baywalk), fencing (Fencing Hall-PSC), football (Marikina), golf (Mariano), gymnastics (Mindy Aquino Stadium), judo (TBA), karate (TBA), powerlifting (Robinson's Place, Cavite), table tennis (SM Manila), taekwondo (FMS), weightlifting (PhilSports), Wushu (NAW).



LOCAL executives and sportsmen join hands in the staging of the first Olympic Festival. From left, Lanao del Norte Gov. Imelda Quibranza-Dinaporo, POC president Jose Cojuangco Jr., POC chair Robert Avenajado, Tagaytay Mayor Bambol Tolentino and Nueva Ecija provincial board member Edward Joson.

## Teener tops Palau aquathlon; De Leon rules women's race

By Melvin Gascon  
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SANTA ANA, CAGAYAN—A 14-year-old triathlete from Laguna ruled Saturday's Speedo Palau Island Aquathlon Challenge here.

Jerome Reluya of the Laguna Mako Sharks team of Los Baños outlasted 46 other triathletes from all over the country to capture overall honors.

Reluya conquered the 6-kilometer course in 47 minutes and 46 seconds.

Pol Reyes, 37, came in second in 48:37 while Leian Cruz was third with a time of 0:49:43.

The course involved a 2.5-km mountain run up to the historic Engano lighthouse at 93 meters above sea level, through Palau's old-growth forest, a 1-km swim and another 2.5-km run, again scaling the Engano lighthouse and down to the finish line at the Engano beach.

"It was tough, especially the climb," Reluya said. "But it was wonderful and exhilarating once you get to the lighthouse at the top of the hill because of the beautiful view of the sea and the island from up there."

The Reluyas made it a family affair as Jerome's twin brother, Joseph, placed seventh, with their father, Ronnie, placing third in the 45-50 age group.

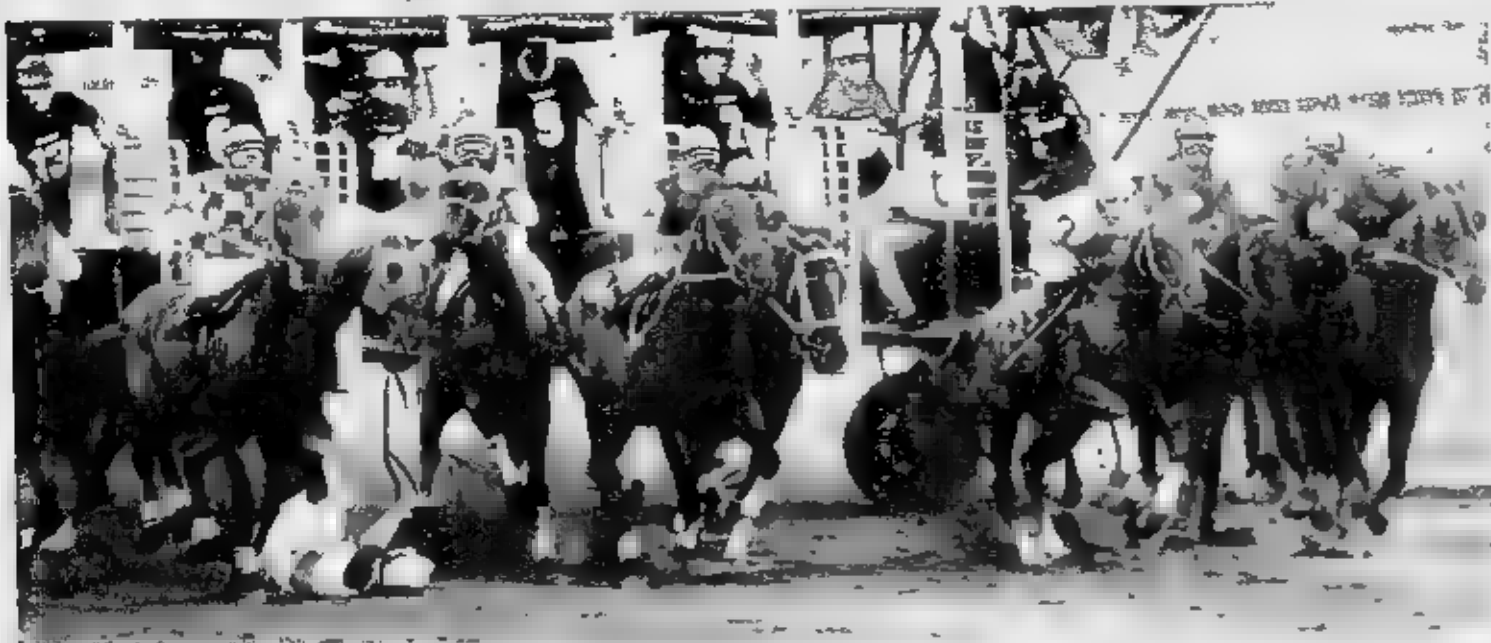
Topping the women's category was 31-year-old Ani de Leon, a member of the national triathlon team that participated in the last Southeast Asian Games, who timed 49:49.

Set on the Cape Engano cove, the event intends to promote Palau Island as an eco-tourism destination, as officials here said it could easily rival Boracay Island in Aklan as a prime summer destination.

The aquathlon challenge, the second to be held in this town, was organized by the provincial government of Cagayan, the Cagayan Economic Zone Authority, the Triathlon Association of the Philippines and other sponsors.

Other age group champions in the men's division of the event also supported by Herbalife, Asian Centre for Insulation Phils. were Joseph Reluya (15 and below), Miguel Rendo (20-24), Joseph De Vera (30-34), Ed Tizon (35-39), Lou Rafols (40-44), Ironman veteran Mark Houle (45 to 49) and Chito Noel (50 and above).

In the women's side, Patricia Baybayan was tops in the 15 and below, Mimi Oplencia took the 20 to 24 group, Pinky Pahud emerged champion in the 25 to 29 while Rolaine Pardola ruled the 40 to 44 group in the race that projected the natural and unspoiled beauty of Palau Island.



## DOWN AND OUT OF THE RACE

Jockey Jeffril Zarate (on the ground) narrowly avoids Special Edition (second from left) after falling off his mount, Mr. Victory, at the start of the Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. Cup, the 2006 Triple Crown series' first leg on Sunday at the San Lazzaro Leisure Park in Camran, Cavite. Eventual winner Don Exequiel (fourth from right) used a great jump out of the gates under Ronaldo Baldonado before holding off Special Edition in a furious battle in the stretch to win the P1.2 million top prize for owner Hermie Esquerro. Jet Sutter (sixth from left) settled for third, a length back, while Tigres in Action was fourth with Batong Sibyar, a longshot like Don Exequiel, checking in fifth. Don Exequiel's winning time was 1:41 (24', 23', 25, 28) over the mile. Santiago, Dixie The Younger, top favorite Million Dollar and Twelve or Never rounded out the order of finish.

## Chan gives RP high mark as b'minton host

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINES PASSED ITS FIRST LITMUS test as an international badminton host with flying colors.

This was how national head coach Errol Chan assessed the country's hosting of the recent Bungo Bonanza Philippine Open championships where the Filipino shuttlers performed creditably against the best in the world.

Though the country's bids could muster only a runner-up finish courtesy of world-ranked Kenzie and Kenzie Asuncion in the mixed dou-

bles—the 19 others failed to go beyond the second round—Chan said it was still a commendable finish for all the RP shuttlers.

"Three years ago our players won't even be able to score in this kind of tournament," said Chan of the four-star championships which marked the first time the Philippines was included in the tough International Badminton Federation circuit.

The Asuncions outdid themselves, barging in to the finals after sensational victories against Japanese and Indonesian foes, including 2000 Sydney Olympics silver winner Tri Kusharjanto

and Minaro Timus.

Their run ended after the Filipinos, the only IBF-ranked players, lost to Thailand's Sudket Prapakamol and Saralee Thongthongkam, 21-18, 21-16, in the championship match last Sunday.

Still, Chan remained optimistic that the country can sustain its badminton progress as he lined up a string of international exposure for the national team.

Chan said he has selected the young players who will soon take part in tournaments in Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Macau, Vietnam and Malaysia.

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Channel	230PM	240PM	250PM	260PM	270PM	280PM	290PM	300PM	310PM	320PM	330PM	340PM	350PM	360PM	370PM	380PM	390PM	400PM	410PM	420PM	430PM	440PM	450PM	460PM	470PM	480PM	490PM	500PM	510PM	520PM	530PM	540PM	550PM	560PM	570PM	580PM	590PM	600PM	610PM	620PM	630PM	640PM	650PM	660PM	670PM	680PM	690PM	700PM	710PM	720PM	730PM	740PM	750PM	760PM	770PM	780PM	790PM	800PM	810PM	820PM	830PM	840PM	850PM	860PM	870PM	880PM	890PM	900PM	910PM	920PM	930PM	940PM	950PM	960PM	970PM	980PM	990PM	1000PM	1010PM	1020PM	1030PM	1040PM	1050PM	1060PM	1070PM	1080PM	1090PM	1100PM	1110PM	1120PM	1130PM	1140PM	1150PM	1160PM	1170PM	1180PM	1190PM	1200PM	1210PM	1220PM	1230PM	1240PM	1250PM	1260PM	1270PM	1280PM	1290PM	1300PM	1310PM	1320PM	1330PM	1340PM	1350PM	1360PM	1370PM	1380PM	1390PM	1400PM	1410PM	1420PM	1430PM	1440PM	1450PM	1460PM	1470PM	1480PM	1490PM	1500PM	1510PM	1520PM	1530PM	1540PM	1550PM	1560PM	1570PM	1580PM	1590PM	1600PM	1610PM	1620PM	1630PM	1640PM	1650PM	1660PM	1670PM	1680PM	1690PM	1700PM	1710PM	1720PM	1730PM	1740PM	1750PM	1760PM	1770PM	1780PM	1790PM	1800PM	1810PM	1820PM	1830PM	1840PM	1850PM	1860PM	1870PM	1880PM	1890PM	1900PM	1910PM	1920PM	1930PM	1940PM	1950PM	1960PM	1970PM	1980PM	1990PM	2000PM	2010PM	2020PM	2030PM	2040PM	2050PM	2060PM	2070PM	2080PM	2090PM	2100PM	2110PM	2120PM	2130PM	2140PM	2150PM	2160PM	2170PM	2180PM	2190PM	2200PM	2210PM	2220PM	2230PM	2240PM	2250PM	2260PM	2270PM	2280PM	2290PM	2300PM	2310PM	2320PM	2330PM	2340PM	2350PM	2360PM	2370PM	2380PM	2390PM	2400PM	2410PM	2420PM	2430PM	2440PM	2450PM	2460PM	2470PM	2480PM	2490PM	2500PM	2510PM	2520PM	2530PM	2540PM	2550PM	2560PM	2570PM	2580PM	2590PM	2600PM	2610PM	2620PM	2630PM	2640PM	2650PM	2660PM	2670PM	2680PM	2690PM	2700PM	2710PM	2720PM	2730PM	2740PM	2750PM	2760PM	2770PM	2780PM	2790PM	2800PM	2810PM	2820PM	2830PM	2840PM	2850PM	2860PM	2870PM	2880PM	2890PM	2900PM	2910PM	2920PM	2930PM	2940PM	2950PM	2960PM	2970PM	2980PM	2990PM	3000PM	3010PM	3020PM	3030PM	3040PM	3050PM	3060PM	3070PM	3080PM	3090PM	3100PM	3110PM	3120PM	3130PM	3140PM	3150PM	3160PM	3170PM	3180PM	3190PM	3200PM	3210PM	3220PM	3230PM	3240PM	3250PM	3260PM	3270PM	3280PM	3290PM	3300PM	3310PM	3320PM	3330PM	3340PM	3350PM	3360PM	3370PM	3380PM	3390PM	3400PM	3410PM	3420PM	3430PM	3440PM	3450PM	3460PM	3470PM	3480PM	3490PM	3500PM	3510PM	3520PM	3530PM	3540PM	3550PM	3560PM	3570PM	3580PM	3590PM	3600PM	3610PM	3620PM	3630PM	3640PM	3650PM	3660PM	3670PM	3680PM	3690PM	3700PM	3710PM	3720PM	3730PM	3740PM	3750PM	3760PM	3770PM	3780PM	3790PM	3800PM	3810PM	3820PM	3830PM	3840PM	3850PM	3860PM	3870PM	3880PM	3890PM	3900PM	3910PM	3920PM	3930PM	3940PM	3950PM	3960PM	3970PM	3980PM	3990PM	4000PM	4010PM	4020PM	4030PM	4040PM	4050PM	4060PM	4070PM	4080PM	4090PM	4100PM	4110PM	4120PM	4130PM	4140PM	4150PM	4160PM	4170PM	4180PM	4190PM	4200PM	4210PM	4220PM	4230PM	4240PM	4250PM	4260PM	4270PM	4280PM	4290PM	4300PM	4310PM	4320PM	4330PM	4340PM	4350PM	4360PM	4370PM	4380PM	4390PM	4400PM	4410PM	4420PM	4430PM	4440PM	4450PM	4460PM	4470PM	4480PM	4490PM	4500PM	4510PM	4520PM	4530PM	4540PM	4550PM	4560PM	4570PM	4580PM	4590PM	4600PM	4610PM	4620PM	4630PM	4640PM	4650PM	4660PM	4670PM	4680PM	4690PM	4700PM	4710PM	4720PM	4730PM	4740PM	4750PM	4760PM	4770PM	4780PM	4790PM	4800PM	4810PM	4820PM	4830PM	4840PM	4850PM	4860PM	4870PM	4880PM	4890PM	4900PM	4910PM	4920PM	4930PM	4940PM	4950PM	4960PM	4970PM	4980PM	4990PM	5000PM	5010PM	5020PM	5030PM	5040PM	5050PM	5060PM	5070PM	5080PM	5090PM	5100PM	5110PM	5120PM	5130PM	5140PM	5150PM	5160PM	5170PM	5180PM	5190PM	5200PM	5210PM	5220PM	5230PM	5240PM	5250PM	5260PM	5270PM	5280PM	5290PM	5300PM	5310PM	5320PM	5330PM	5340PM	5350PM	5360PM	5370PM	5380PM	5390PM	5400PM	5410PM	5420PM	5430PM	5440PM	5450PM	5460PM	5470PM	5480PM	5490PM	5500PM	5510PM	5520PM	5530PM	5540PM	5550PM	5560PM	5570PM	5580PM	5590PM	5600PM	5610PM	5620PM	5630PM	5640PM	5650PM	5660PM	5670PM	5680PM	5690PM	5700PM	5710PM	5720PM	5730PM	5740PM	5750PM	5760PM	5770PM	5780PM	5790PM	5800PM	5810PM	5820PM	5830PM	5840PM	5850PM	5860PM	5870PM	5880PM	5890PM	5900PM	5910PM	5920PM	5930PM	5940PM	5950PM	5960PM	5970PM	5980PM	5990PM	6000PM	6010PM	6020PM	6030PM	6040PM	6050PM	6060PM	6070PM	6080PM	6090PM	6100PM	6110PM	6120PM	6130PM	6140PM	6150PM	6160PM	6170PM	6180PM	6190PM	6200PM	6210PM	6220PM	6230PM	6240PM	6250PM	6260PM	6270PM	6280PM	6290PM	6300PM	6310PM	6320PM	6330PM	6340PM	6350PM	6360PM	6370PM	6380PM	6390PM	6400PM	6410PM	6420PM	6430PM	6440PM	6450PM	6460PM	6470PM	6480PM	6490PM	6500PM	6510PM	6520PM	6530PM	6540PM	6550PM	6560PM	6570PM	6580PM	6590PM	6600PM	6610PM	6620PM	6630PM	6640PM	6650PM	6660PM	6670PM	6680PM	6690PM	6700PM	6710PM	6720PM	6730PM	6740PM	6750PM	6760PM	6770PM	6780PM	6790PM	6800PM	6810PM	6820PM	6830PM	6840PM	6850PM	6860PM	6870PM	6880PM	6890PM	6900PM	6910PM	6920PM	6930PM	6940PM	6950PM	6960PM	6970PM	6980PM	6990PM	7000PM	7010PM	7020PM	7030PM	7040PM	7050PM	7060PM	7070PM	7080PM	7090PM	7100PM	7110PM	7120PM	7130PM	7140PM	7150PM	7160PM	7170PM	7180PM	7190PM	7200PM	7210PM	7220PM	7230PM	7240PM	7250PM	7260PM	7270PM	7280PM	7290PM	7300PM	7310PM	7320PM	7330PM	7340PM	7350PM	7360PM	7370PM	7380PM	7390PM	7400PM	7410PM	7420PM	7430PM	7440PM	7450PM	7460PM	7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Editor Emmie G. Velarde

## ENTERTAINMENT

sms feedback: inquire ent  
name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe)  
and 283 (Smart) or email us at  
pr\_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

## 'Gay na ba kayo?'

AS A MOM (BUT NOT A STAGE MOTHER), I am more than proud that my gay son IC is in the cast of "Manay Po." What better vehicle could there be for his "comeback" than a movie that's all about the joys and woes of being homosexual?

The story centers on a mother's (Cherry Pie Picache) acceptance of her three gay sons.

"Mother, gay I?"  
IC won a Best Child Actor award many years ago. Now, he's no longer a child and has turned into an "actress!" I asked his co-stars John Prats, Polo Ravales and Jiro Manio (who all play bading in the film) what they would be like if they were gay in real life.

John said, "I won't cross-dress but I'll wear a little make-up. I want to be the girl in the relationship, who's pampered and all."

Polo replied, "I want my papa to be faithful. I'll make sure I'm a decent and respectable gay."

Jiro confessed, "I'll be the *ikay* type who dresses up like a real woman from head to foot."

Gay na ba kayo for "Manay Po" tomorrow?

**Emotionally challenging**  
AFTER the success of "Darna," GMA Network is bound to continue conquering the hearts of the viewers in the first-ever TV series about the well-

loved Pinoy superhero, Captain Barbell. It has a modern and futuristic plot and setting.  
Top-billed by Richard Gutierrez, who plays the dual role of the mighty Captain Barbell and his alter ego Teng, Richard says his role in "Sugo" was physically demanding but Captain Barbell is emotionally challenging.

"As Teng and Captain Barbell, I'm required to show an extreme range of emotions—from a sofie to a toughie."

And who is his true-to-life hero?  
"My dad and mom—'cause their support makes the impossible possible for me," Richard says.

Captain Barbell is out to proclaim that every good-hearted Pinoy (just like Richard's folks) is worthy of hero worship.

**LJ's presents**  
I CORNERED LJ Reyes and asked, "What *pasalubong* did you bring Alfred Vargas and Mike Tan from the US?" (She flew to New Jersey recently to renew her green card.) She blushed and said, "I got a Quick Silver jacket for Alfred, chocolates for Mike." I teased her, "So that means Alfred is more special than Mike?" She laughed, "Alfred is on diet so I couldn't give him chocolates."

Perhaps she already provides the sweetness in Alfred's life. Who needs chocolates, indeed?

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IC Mendoza, John Prats and Charles Christianson

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**2: Mission Impossible 3**  
**3: Poseidon**

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**1: Poseidon**  
**2: Over the Hedge**  
**3: The Da Vinci Code**  
**4: Mission Impossible 3**

**Everyday Family Day at StarMall!**  
Tuesdays Comedy Nights, Fridays Live Acoustic Bands at Cafe Lala Bar Street Edsa  
Mondays Live Bands, Thursdays Comedy Nights at Mark's KTV Metropolis Star Alabang  
3 DAY SALE (May 19-21) Ruby Rodriguez (May 20) Soda A (May 21) Metropolis Star Alabang  
Christian Bautista & Joanylyn Mercado (May 27) StarMall Edsa

## DOLLY WOOD



Dolly Ann Carvajal

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MTRCB Rating: R-16  
pls. call our CINEMA ACCESS: 095-5000  
or visit us: www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

**A2** TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2006  
**'Gay na ba kayo?'** From page A2-1  
Still groping  
I BEGGED Toni Gonzaga to let me in on the latest between Sam Milby and her. She smiled and said, "There are days when both of us are very talkative and times when we're both quiet. We're still groping, but also enjoying. I keep telling Sam just to go with the flow. He's the type who won't text if I don't text first. Nakikurandom siya. Unlike most Ambosya, he's not the aggressive type—which is fine with me."  
So what's keeping them from taking their relationship to the next level? Toni said, "I know a lot of girls wanna be Sam's girl. He's definitely boyfriend material but I wanna take it slow."  
Slow slow slow but it's a go go go...  
**Heart jog**  
JERICHO Rosales and Heart Evangelista were spotted twice jogging in Saicedo Park at around 1 a.m. Maybe the lovers want to avoid gawking passers-by, so they opted to jog at such an ungodly hour. Love and jogging are both good for the heart, anyway.  
**Rico's bro**  
I BUMPED into my long lost friend Bobby Yan. I asked about how his love life these days. He said, "I swear by my brother Rico's grave that I have no girlfriend now." How emphatic! Hopefully Rico can help Bobby's heart come to life again.  
**Where's the prize?**  
POOR Frenchie Dy! She won "Star in A Million" two years ago. But what's this I heard that, to this day, she has not received her prizes yet (recording contract and a house)? Worse, she was booted from "AS-AP"! Did the donors and production people do a "French leave" on Frenchie?  
**Music maverick**  
MUSIC Maverick Ricky Ilacad is the new pres.

**MMTA**  
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION  
**MOVIE GUIDE**  
NOW SHOWING

<b>CINEMA 2000</b> 1. 10:00am X-MEN 3 PG-13 2. 2:00pm X-MEN 3 PG-13 3. 3:00pm DA VINCI CODE R 4. 4:00pm OVER THE HEDGE 5. 5:00pm DA VINCI CODE R	<b>FILINVEST</b> 1. 10:00am X-MEN 3 2. 2:00pm THE DA VINCI CODE 3. 3:00pm X-MEN 3 4. 4:00pm X-MEN 3 5. 5:00pm THE DA VINCI CODE 6. 6:00pm MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-3 7. 7:00pm THE DA VINCI CODE 8. 8:00pm OVER THE HEDGE 9. 9:00pm THE DA VINCI CODE 10. 10:00pm THE DA VINCI CODE	<b>WILWOOD CINEMAS</b> 1. 10:00am X-MEN 3 2. 2:00pm X-MEN 3 3. 3:00pm 4. 4:00pm 5. 5:00pm 6. 6:00pm 7. 7:00pm 8. 8:00pm 9. 9:00pm 10. 10:00pm
<b>CINEMA 2000</b> 1. 10:00am X-MEN 3 2. 2:00pm X-MEN 3 3. 3:00pm THE DA VINCI CODE 4. 4:00pm THE DA VINCI CODE	<b>Blue Wave</b> 1. 10:00am MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-3 2. 2:00pm X-MEN 3 3. 3:00pm THE DA VINCI CODE 4. 4:00pm THE DA VINCI CODE	<b>CINEMA 2000</b> 1. 10:00am THE DA VINCI CODE 2. 2:00pm X-MEN 3 3. 3:00pm 4. 4:00pm
<b>CINEMA 2000</b> 1. 10:00am X-MEN 3 2. 2:00pm X-MEN 3 3. 3:00pm THE DA VINCI CODE 4. 4:00pm THE DA VINCI CODE	<b>SUPER CINERAMA</b> 1. 10:00am X-MEN 3 2. 2:00pm X-MEN 3 3. 3:00pm ROSEIDON 4. 4:00pm X-MEN 3 5. 5:00pm TUKSO	<b>CINEMA 2000</b> 1. 10:00am THE DA VINCI CODE 2. 2:00pm X-MEN 3 3. 3:00pm MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-3 4. 4:00pm THE DA VINCI CODE 5. 5:00pm SLITHER
<b>starmall</b> 1. 10:00am X-MEN 3 2. 2:00pm X-MEN 3 3. 3:00pm THE DA VINCI CODE 4. 4:00pm THE DA VINCI CODE	<b>Maragana CINEMA</b> 1. 10:00am MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-3 2. 2:00pm X-MEN 3 3. 3:00pm OVER THE HEDGE 4. 4:00pm THE DA VINCI CODE	<b>CINEMA 2000</b> 1. 10:00am X-MEN 3 2. 2:00pm THE DA VINCI CODE 3. 3:00pm THE DA VINCI CODE 4. 4:00pm THE DA VINCI CODE
<b>metropolis</b> 1. 10:00am THE DA VINCI CODE 2. 2:00pm MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-3 3. 3:00pm X-MEN 3 4. 4:00pm	<b>Center Mall Cinema</b> 1. 10:00am THE DA VINCI CODE 2. 2:00pm X-MEN 3 3. 3:00pm THE DA VINCI CODE 4. 4:00pm THE DA VINCI CODE	<b>Linas Cinema</b> 1. 10:00am SILENT HILL 2. 2:00pm ROSEIDON 3. 3:00pm THE DA VINCI CODE 4. 4:00pm SAYO AND SARAP 5. 5:00pm SILENT HILL
<b>THEATRES</b> 1. 10:00am X-MEN 3 2. 2:00pm MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-3 3. 3:00pm THE DA VINCI CODE 4. 4:00pm	<b>Jade Cinema</b> 1. 10:00am THE DA VINCI CODE 2. 2:00pm THE DA VINCI CODE 3. 3:00pm X-MEN 3 4. 4:00pm ROSEIDON	<b>Linas Cinema</b> 1. 10:00am THE DA VINCI CODE 2. 2:00pm X-MEN 3 3. 3:00pm THE DA VINCI CODE 4. 4:00pm THE DA VINCI CODE
<b>PACIFIC MALL CINEMAGIC</b> 1. 10:00am X-MEN 3 2. 2:00pm BASIC INSTINCT-2 3. 3:00pm RESERVED 4. 4:00pm RESERVED	<b>Centre Plaza Cinema</b> 1. 10:00am MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-3 2. 2:00pm ROSEIDON 3. 3:00pm 4. 4:00pm	<b>Fiesta World Mall</b> 1. 10:00am LILIM 2. 2:00pm ROSEIDON 3. 3:00pm X-MEN 3 4. 4:00pm
	<b>Berma Cinema</b> 1. 10:00am 2. 2:00pm	

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

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christian vazquez luis alandy mike lan lj rayes glaiza de castro

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Also stars: giselle sanchez ic mendoza charles christianson the obernados jim pehangco

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<b>OVER THE HEDGE</b> 1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00 / 7:00 / 9:00		<b>THE DA VINCI CODE</b> 12:00 / 3:00 / 6:00 / 9:00

**MIMALL CINEMAS**

<b>X-MEN 3</b> 12:51 / 2:25 / 4:35 / 6:45 / 8:55	<b>THE DA VINCI CODE</b> 12:05 / 3:00 / 6:55 / 8:50	<b>MISSION IMPOSSIBLE: 3</b> 12:15 / 2:55 / 5:35 / 8:15
<b>OVER THE HEDGE</b> 12:00 / 2:00 / 4:00 / 6:00 / 8:00	<b>POSEIDON</b> 12:10 / 2:15 / 4:20 / 6:25 / 8:30	

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**THE BENCHWARMERS**  
3 OLDER GUYS SHOULD BE ABLE TO BEAT THE NEIGHBORHOOD BULLIES...RIGHT?

COLUMBIA PICTURES

## 'Gay na ba kayo?'

From page A2-2

dent of MCA Music Philippines. He played a key role in the Philippine success of top international artists like Madonna, Michael Bublé, Josh Groban and many more. He was also instrumental in the rise of local talents such as Nina, Karchie Nadal and Christian Bautista.

Harry Hui, president of Universal Music South East Asia, says, "I can't think of a better-qualified music man than Ricky to take MCA Phil forward into a new era. He is a true pioneer in the field, having worked in Warner, Sony, BMG and EMI through the years."

### Lips don't lie

CATCH the Sexbomb Girls on their grand fans' day presentation, "Lips Don't Lie" tomorrow, 5 p.m., at the UP Theater Diliman in Quezon City. Joining them are Aiza Seguerra, KC Montero, Kier Legaspi and a lot of other stars.



SAM Milby

### Personal

**MUCHISSIMAS** greets to Enchanted Kingdom's Sir Mon, Dennis Cruz and my cool friend Mike Crisologo. It's not only the magic of EK that stays with me but your kindness as well.

(E-Mail: [wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com](mailto:wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com))

**SHANG CINEPLEX**

<b>1 X-MEN 3</b> MTRCB PG-13 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30	<b>3 THE DA VINCI CODE</b> MTRCB R-18 1:20, 4:25, 7:30, 10:35
<b>2 X-MEN 3</b> MTRCB PG-13 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00	<b>4 OVER THE HEDGE</b> MTRCB GP 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:10

**PREMIERE THEATRE** **THE DA VINCI CODE**  
MTRCB R-18 11:45, 2:00, 4:25, 6:50, 9:15

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<b>THE DA VINCI CODE</b> R18 3:15, 6:15, 9:15	<b>X-MEN: THE LAST STAND</b> PG13 1:45, 4:05, 6:25, 8:45	<b>THE DA VINCI CODE</b> R18 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15
<b>X-MEN: THE LAST STAND</b> PG13 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20	<b>OVER THE HEDGE</b> G 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00	<b>X-MEN: THE LAST STAND</b> PG13 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30

Movies and screening schedules subject to change without prior notice. For verification call 981440-41

**EASTWOOD CINEMAS**

Enchanted City With 2, Enchanted City II, Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Osmena City

<b>1 X-MEN 3</b> 11:20, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50 PG-13
<b>2 X-MEN 3</b> 12:10, 2:30, 5:00, 8:10, 10:50 PG-13
<b>3 THE DA VINCI CODE</b> 12:30, 3:50, 7:15, 10:40 R-18
<b>4 OVER THE HEDGE</b> 11:20, 1:40, 3:50, 6:10, 8:30 GP
<b>5 THE DA VINCI CODE</b> 8:10, 9:30 R-18

For requests call 687-6963  
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<b>G1</b>	<b>1 THE DA VINCI CODE</b>	<b>2 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND</b>	<b>3 THE DA VINCI CODE</b>	<b>4 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND</b>
<b>G4</b>	<b>1 THE DA VINCI CODE</b>	<b>2 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND</b>	<b>3 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND</b>	<b>4 THE DA VINCI CODE</b>
<b>GB1</b>	<b>1 THE DA VINCI CODE</b>	<b>2 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND</b>		
<b>GB3</b>	<b>1 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND</b> 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	<b>2 THE DA VINCI CODE</b> 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	<b>3 OVER THE HEDGE</b> 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	<b>4 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND</b> 1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:30, 10:50 GUARANTEED SEATS
<b>ATC</b>	<b>1 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND</b>	<b>2 THE DA VINCI CODE</b>		
<b>ACC</b>	<b>1 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND</b>	<b>2 THE DA VINCI CODE</b>	<b>3 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND</b>	<b>4 OVER THE HEDGE</b>
<b>M2</b>	<b>1 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND</b>	<b>2 THE DA VINCI CODE</b>		
	<b>3 OVER THE HEDGE</b>	<b>4 THE DA VINCI CODE</b>	<b>5 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND</b>	

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# BUSINESS

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## Japan lifts freeze on P4B in grants, loans

### Pledges up to \$800M in new yen credits

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT has lifted the freeze on some P4 billion in grants and yen loans after holding their release since 2001 due to a row on the non-payment of Japanese contractors doing business in the Philippines.

This was reported by House Speaker Jose de Venecia, who flew back to Manila from Tokyo late yesterday, who said Japan has like-

wise agreed to provide an additional \$600-\$800 million in fresh loans intended for poverty-alleviation programs and infrastructure projects.

In a telephone call before leaving Japan, De Venecia described as "highly successful" his meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi on Monday, capping his six-day official visit.

De Venecia was accompanied by spouse Gina, Deputy Speaker for Visayas Raul del Mar and Representatives Junie Cua, Jack Duavit and Antonio Diaz. Besides Tokyo, they also visited the cities of Kyoto, Nara and Nagoya.

He said Japanese Finance Minister Sadakazu Tanigaki informed him last Thurs-

JAPAN/B2

### Digitel sees profit in 2007

By Abigail L. Ho

GOKONGWEI LED DIGITAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS Philippines Inc. (Digitel) expects to post a profit next year after suffering losses these past years due mainly to the rollout of its cellular network.

In an interview on the sidelines of yesterday's stockholders' meeting, Digitel vice chair James Go expressed confidence that "increased subscriber base because of our good network, good coverage, good service" would bring the company in the black by 2007.

The company had already showed signs of recovery, posting a net income of P43.2 million in the first quarter—a reversal of the P451.3-million loss it registered in the same period last year. Since 2002, Digitel had been in the red, with losses reaching almost P2.1 billion in 2004.

### WB URGES DEV'T COUNTRIES 'Get tough on corruption'

By Doris C. Dumiao

TOKYO—CORRUPTION IS SEEN gnawing on the building blocks of infrastructure especially in poor countries, but in a world where public sector intervention is still necessary, top development planners present an urgent case for higher policy accountability and transparency.

At the opening of the two-day Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics (ABCDE) organized by the World Bank and Japan's Ministry of Finance, concerns about corruption, its consequences and possible remedies were discussed lengthily during the sessions at the Mita Con-

ference Hall here.

In his opening speech, World Bank group president Paul Wolfowitz urged about a thousand ABCDE participants—consisting of policy-makers, economists, academicians as well as representatives from business, media and civil society—to "get tough and stay tough on corruption."

"This requires vigilance not only on bank-financed projects, where our fiduciary responsibility to shareholders demands high accountability, but also in broader country and global environments in which we operate," Wolfowitz said.

"Ordinary people will not fully benefit from new infrastructure pro-

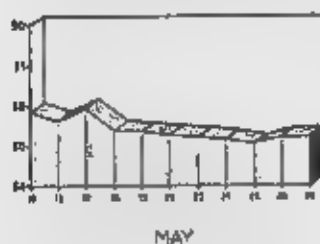
jects such as roads if, as in the case of certain projects in Asia, the improved access is accompanied by informal levies or charges that raise transportation costs back to previous levels," he said.

In his own opening address, Finance Minister Sadakazu Tanigaki reminded that during the 1990s, it was the prevailing thought that private capital should be a main source of infrastructure investments even in developing countries.

"However, the necessity of public sector involvement has been recognized again, and it became necessary to further develop the concept of pub-

TITLE/B3

#### INDICATORS CURRENCIES



#### PESO-DOLLAR RATE

**P 52.78 = \$**

As of 5 p.m., May 29, 2006

**Y 112.31 = \$**

As of 5 p.m., May 29, 2006

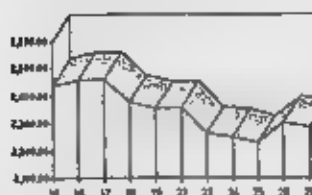
**GOLD: \$647.30-647.80**

per ounce Hong Kong, May 29, 2006

#### STOCK MARKET

##### PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

MAY



(See stock market report on Page B2)

#### Stocks down on interest rate fears

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.76-percent lower yesterday, slipping back after sharp gains on Friday on concerns the central bank may raise key interest rates later this week, dealers said.

STOCKS/B2

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\*As awarded by Car Awards Group Inc.



**TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2006**

## June and May 79, 2000

May 29, 2006		Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
Switzerland	Dollar	0.785484	1.000000	52.827	
United States	Dollar	0.006969	0.008872	0.451	
Japan	Yen	1.458723	1.857100	98.093	
United Kingdom	Pound	0.101285	0.128948	6.81	
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.640427	0.815328	43.06	
Switzerland	Franc	0.708811	0.903656	47.73	
Canada	Dollar	0.497258	0.633072	33.44	
Singapore	Dollar	0.595064	0.757576	40.01	
Australia	Dollar	2.084342	2.653576	140.16	
Bahrain	Dinar	0.269440	0.266638	14.08	
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.495699	0.531074	33.33	
Brunei	Dollar	0.080085	0.080108	0.08	
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.020485	0.026079	1.37	
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.213912	0.272331	14.38	
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.273100	67.24	
Argentina/Peso	Peso	0.324437	17.1372		
Brazil	Real		0.446828	23.60	
Denmark	Krone	0.134115	0.170742		
India	Rupie	0.017146	0.021829	1.15	
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.215782	0.274725	14.51	
Mexico	New Peso	0.070682		4.75	
New Zealand	Dollar	0.498487	0.635082	33.54	
South Africa	Rand		0.153393	11.0	
Korea	Won	0.000831	0.001058	0.05	
Taiwan	New Dollar	0.024558	0.031282	1.65	

technical bounce, which cannot be sustained as concerns over rising interest rates remain," said Nestor Agula.

**From page B1**

day in a brief meeting that "the way is now open for the restoration" of the grants and the commercial yen loan packages following the Philippine government's settlement of some P70 million due to Japanese companies.

The delegation also had a 30-minute meeting last Friday with Kiyosuke Shinozawa, governor of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, source of the yen packages that had been suspended since 2001.

De Venecia said the restoration of the annual yen packages would be major sources of capital funds for the Philippines as these had 30-40 years' repayment at less than 1-percent interest a year.

The yen loans could fund "massive infrastructure build-

and development and various Philippine anti-poverty programs leading to the creation of thousands of jobs," he said.

The delegation has had a schedule, including bilateral meetings with Speaker Yohel Kono of the Japanese Diet (Parliament) and the Japan-Philippines Parliamentary Friendship League.



# Oil producers urged to invest in education, bonds

## To avoid 70s woe where excess money lent to developing countries led to debt crises

By Abigail L. Ho

INSTEAD OF JUST KEEPING THEIR PETRODOLLARS in banks, Asian economies are encouraging oil-producing countries to channel these into education-related initiatives that will have a lasting effect on the oil industry, as well as to Asian bonds that can be used to bankroll development projects in the region.

Coming off a recent meeting with various foreign ministers in Qatar, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla related that the reinvestment of petrodollars in Asian economies was one of the issues they discussed, in light of the rising prices of oil in the world market these past two years.

"I think that's a very important point because right now, due to the higher prices of oil, we are experiencing the same phenomenon that occurred in the 70s, where you have petrodollars floating out there and, of course, they would have to find some place to be invested in," he told reporters.

Petrodollars refer to the money that oil exporters get from selling crude oil, which are deposited in Western banks.

In the 70s and 80s, bulk of the surplus petrodollars were deposited in American and European banks, and subsequently lent to oil-importing developing countries. This contributed to Latin America's debt crisis.

"We need to learn our lessons from the past. The oil-producing countries have actually far greater alternatives on how to invest their money now than in the 70s, because there are things they can actually invest in," Lotilla said.

Lotilla said that as some of the biggest oil consumers in the world—China and India—were in Asia, it would make sense for oil-producing countries to reinvest their petrodollars in the region.

These investments could come in the form of education-related initiatives that would help oil-consuming countries produce skilled workers who could eventually contribute to the oil sector, he said.

He said Saudi Arabia specifically, for example, could invest its petrodollars in education in the country, as the Philippines supplied a large number of skilled workers to the world's

oil giant.

"That way, we can tailor-fit the kind of people that we produce for the particular needs of the oil-producing economies that need them. For instance, if basic Arabic language skills are necessary, then they can be incorporated into the curricula," he explained.

If not in education-related initiatives, he said Asian bonds could be floated to "absorb some of the excess petrodollars."

The proceeds of the bond flotation could then be used by Asian economies to bankroll various development projects in the region, he said.

He declined to give further details on the Asian bonds, however, saying the Department of Finance would have to be the one to flesh out that proposal.

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## 'Get tough ...

From page B1

lic-private partnerships, fully reflecting the past experience," Tangaki said.

But the finance minister said debates on quite a number of issues in infrastructure development had sprung, including as to whether donor support had simply left "white elephants" behind, or whether enough attention was given to adverse environmental and social impacts.

A paper titled "Infrastructure for Growth: Emerging Issues" presented by World Bank senior economic adviser Antonio Estache cited surveys showing that the poorer a country was, the bigger the corruption problem in infrastructure.

He cited four main directions pushed by researchers over the last 20 years to stamp out this problem of corruption: Privatization, boosting regulation and related processes, increased decentralization and adoption of a participatory process in the selection, implementation and supervision of projects.

But the economist also agreed that the world could not live without public sector participation in infrastructure development, especially in passenger transport as well as water and sanitation.

"Private investment is needed but not a full substitute to other sources," Estache said, noting the world had gone over the "illusion of privatization" harbored in the 1990s. He noted that telecommunication was the only utility sector which had successfully attracted huge private investment over the years.

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**NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING**  
Notice is hereby given that the 2006 Annual Stockholders' Meeting of EEI CORPORATION will be held on June 09, 2006, at 10:00 A.M. at RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, Metro Manila, to consider and act upon the following matters:  
1. Certification of Sending of Notices and Quorum.  
2. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Stockholders' Meeting held on June 17, 2005.  
3. Chairman and CEO's Report/Review of Operations.  
a. 2005 Highlights  
b. Outlook for 2006  
4. Approval of the Annual Report and Ratification of the Actions of the Board of Directors/Officers.  
5. Election of Directors.  
6. Appointment of External Auditors.  
7. Transaction of other business which may come before the meeting.  
8. Adjournment.  
The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on March 31, 2006 as the record date for the purpose of determining the Company's stockholders entitled to notice, and to vote at, the said meeting.  
Stockholders who cannot attend the meeting but would like to be represented thereat, should accomplish the proxy form which have been mailed to them together with the Agenda, Information Statement, and Annual Report, and return the same to the Office of the Corporate Secretary not later than 24 hours before the meeting, for validation of proxies entitled to vote.

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## RIZALINA LOMOTAN-PAULINO

of Malolos, Bulacan

*Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on  
May 26, 2006 at the age of 58.*

Her bereaved husband, Reynaldo; children: Rommel & Gem, Leslie & Carly, Alex, and Maricon; grandchildren: Pot-Pot, Paula, Paulo & Chia; brothers: Arnold, Danny, Sip, Romy & Bert; sister: Nelia; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to join them in praying for her eternal happiness in heaven.

Her remains lie in state at Sto. Niño Chapel, Malolos, Bulacan.

Interment will be on Wednesday, May 31, 2006 after the 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass at Sto. Niño Chapel.

## MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family of the late

## HUDSON O. CHUA

July 11, 1966 – May 13, 2006

express our heartfelt gratitude to those who condoled with us; offered masses and prayers; sent flowers, cards and messages of sympathy; gave donations; visited and kept vigil; attended the funeral rites and memorial services; and who, in countless ways, helped and comforted us during our moment of bereavement.

Please continue to pray for his eternal repose in heaven.

"God be with you on your journey home.  
We will miss you dearly."



*"If I had a single flower for every time I think of you,  
I could walk forever in my garden"*

*In Loving Memory*  
on the Third Death Anniversary of

### JULIE ANNE LIM EVORA

September 18, 1977 – May 30, 2003

Remembering POT'S life brings us joy and though our hearts still grieve, there is so much love and comfort in the memories she left.

Masses have been offered for Julie's eternal peace and happiness. We request the reader to say a prayer for her too.



### Death Notice

**Brigida Valenzuela**  
of Matuyatuya, Tornijos,  
Marinduque

\* February 1, 1928  
+ May 28, 2006

Her body lies at Chapel D3, Funeraria Nacional, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City until Wednesday night, May 31 and will be brought home to Matuyatuya, Tornijos, Marinduque right after. Interment will be on June 3, 2006, after the 1 p.m. funeral Mass.



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● Copy of Death Certificate ● Any identification document (I.D.)

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**More Classified Ads  
on pages B5 & B18**

**NEECO II** **NUEVA ECILIA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**

The Nueva Ecija II Electric Cooperative, Inc. now invites Sealed Bids from eligible bidders to bid for assorted scrap (iron/steel) unserviceable electrical equipment/devices office equipment and unserviceable vehicles with a floor price in the amount of one million nine hundred sixty four two hundred twenty five pesos only (P1,964,225.00).

The Bidding Documents may be purchased from Nueva Ecija II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NEECO II) Main Office, Calapayan, Talavera, Nueva Ecija, Philippines, upon submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of non-refundable fee of THREE THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (P3,000.00) in cash beginning May 29, 2006.

Sealed proposals will be received by the NEECO II-Committee on Disposal of Non-Performing Assets at NEECO II Main Office on or before 2:00 P.M., June 19, 2006 at which time and place of said proposal will be opened and read in the presence of Bidder or Bidder's authorized representatives who choose to attend. Late submission will not be accepted.

Pre-bid Conference and inspection of scrap materials will be conducted at the NEECO II Main Office at 2:00 P.M. on June 9, 2006.

All bids submitted must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than ten (10%) percent of the total bid price.

The NEECO II hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality therein and to accept such bid as may be considered advantageous to the cooperative.

ENGR. JOSEPHINE L. BADIOLA  
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## People, Events & Products

### Product FILES

#### New Dr. P Adult Diapers

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#### NEW PICS BOARD

Secretary Ramon P. Sales (left), chair of the Commission on Information and Communications Technology, recently inducted the new officers of the Philippine Internet Commerce Society. Shown are (from left): Maan Tolentino, president; Mon Lizardo, executive vice president; lawyer Teddy Kalaw, VP-advocates; Winthrop Yu, treasurer; Edna Belleza,

corporate secretary; Mike Abundo, VP-emerging technologies; and Erick Kalugdan, VP-special projects. PICS is composed of individual and corporate members with the common objective of promoting the growth of e-commerce in the Philippines. The induction ceremony was sponsored by Yahoo!, Intel, Hewlett-Packard and Innova.



#### JOHNNIE WALKER F1 RACING CHALLENGE PROMO WINNER

The race results are in. Carlo Santos of Greenmeadows Village, Pasig City bags top honors for the Johnnie Walker F1 Racing Challenge a chance to fly to Sepang, Malaysia to watch the Formula 1 Grand Prix. It was at Il Ponticello where Carlos ordered Johnnie Walker and got his prize-winning raffle promo ticket.



"Dati po, nag-re-record lang ako ng mga kanta sa mga cassette tape. Tapos, gumugupit ako ng pictures at

DB Manila staff also participated in a State Outreach Program for Daanghari Elementary School, where Deutsche Bank staff donated funds to repair and purchase items for the school library such as computer tables, desks, washers, fans, encyclopedias and other reading materials. About 17 I

The Deutsche Bank Asia Foundation was established in December 2003 to provide financial assistance to community support programs in a number of countries throughout Asia where the Bank conducts business. The classroom projects are part of the Deutsche Bank Asia Foundation's activities in the Philippines.

**PLDT RECEIVES ANVIL AWARD**  
PLDT recently received an Anvil Award of Merit from the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) under the External Publications – Calendar category. The 2005 desk calendar featured Roni Santiago's Batic & Co. comic strip and words of wisdom from some of The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) awardees. Shown during the awards rites are PLDT media senior manager Horace Lavides, 2nd from left holding the Anvil trophy flanked by senior publications assistant Anthony O. Aicantara, media section head Seannen F. Lacsamana, and senior publications assistant J.L.M. Sambailo.

The executive committees of the Advertising Board of the Philippines and Advertising Foundation of the Philippines recently met to forge collaborative initiatives towards strengthened unity and sustained growth of the Philippine advertising and marketing communications industry. AdBoard focuses on industry self-regulation body such as advertising content regulation and conduct of business like screening of advertising materials; the Ad Foundation social development communications and social marketing such as values orientation, voters education and nation-building endeavors. The executive committees of the above industry bodies are (seated, from left): Linda Camboja, Ad Foundation assistant board secretary and executive director; Antonia Samson, president and CEO of Optimum Media (OMD) and Ad Foundation chairman of the board trustees; Mia Teresa Villanueva, senior executive officer of JimenezBasic Advertising and chair of the AdBoard board of directors; Vivian Tin, vice president for research and business analysis of ABS-CBN and AdBoard board secretary; and Oscar

Vaienzuela, AdBoard executive director (standing from left): Lucien Dy-Tinco, vice president for advertising of The Philippine Star and AdBoard PRG; Carlo Llave, president and general manager of The Four Dimensions Inc and AdBoard vice chair; Arnelo Lucas, managing director of Roadrunner Network and Ad Foundation treasurer; Jose Rafael Hernandez, president of Waki Advertising and Ad Foundation membership chair; Johnnie Cua, president of Procter & Gamble Philippines and Ad Foundation board secretary and incoming board chair; Howard Belton, chair and CEO of Unilever Philippines Inc and Ad Foundation International relations officer; Edgar Navalta, Asap president and AdBoard treasurer and Raul Alvarez, assistant vice president for marketing services of PLDT and AdBoard values promotions committee director. It was agreed in the joint executive committee meeting that the AdBoard will turn over to Ad Foundation the Aray Values Advertising (AVA) awards for Ad Foundation biennial implementation, starting this 2006, as the 1st AdBoard, Ad Foundation collaborative endeavor.

**FEDEX, A SUBSIDIARY OF FEDEX CORP (NYSE: FDX)** and the world's largest express transportation company, has moved its Cubao World Service Center (WSC) to a new location and upgraded the facilities in order to provide its customers with faster and more efficient service. The new WSC is conveniently located near the commercial shopping district of Ali Mall and Gateway Mall, and will service the entire Arsnet Center and the Aurora Boulevard district up to Edsa. Improvements include a 236 sq m floor and an increased number of parking spaces for customers. Says Clifton Chua, managing director for FedEx in the Philippines, Thailand, and Indochina, "With a strategic new location and improved facilities, we now have the flexibility to better meet the increasing needs of our customers in this thriving business district." For free B-roll/video content about FedEx please log onto [www.thenewsmarket.com/fedex](http://www.thenewsmarket.com/fedex) to review and request video. You can receive broadcast-standard video digitally or by tape from this site. Registration and video is free to the media.

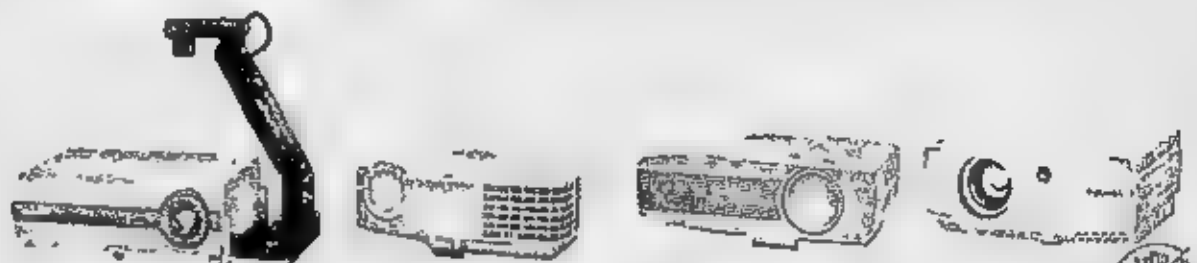
## A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a rectangular object, possibly a book cover or a piece of equipment, with a circular feature on the right side. The image is heavily degraded with noise and artifacts.

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[illegible]

 **TransCo**  
National Transmission Corporation  
Republic of the Philippines

## Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

### SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF LOOSE BREAKER FAILURE RELAYS AND ACCESSORIES

(Reference No.: PB060403-LE055/PR No. PID-06-000018385)

The NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, Head Office Region (TRANSCO-HO) through the 2006 Corporate Budget approved by the TransCo Board intends to apply the sum of Php 1,890,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for PB060403-LE055/PR No. PID-06-000018385, **Supply and Delivery of Loose Breaker Failure Relays and Accessories**, Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected as Bid opening Award shall be on a bid basis.

The TRANSCO-HO now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for **Supply and Delivery of Loose Breaker Failure Relays and Accessories**. Delivery of the GOODS is required within sixty (60) calendar days. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietors, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 136 (C.A. 136). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

- A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders, from the address below, from May 23, 2006 to June 23, 2006 from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Php 1,890.00. The method of payment will be Cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
- The TRANSCO-HO will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on June 04, 2006/1:39 P.M. at the address below
- Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before June 21, 2006/2:00 P.M. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following forms and amount or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%) of P99,800.00
2. Bank guarantee	One and a half percent (1 1/2%) or P145,700.00
3. Surety bond	Two and a half percent (2 1/2%) or P249,000.00
4. Foreign government guarantee	One hundred percent (100%) or P9,980,000.00

- Bid opening shall be on **June 21, 2006/2:00 PM** at the **Admin Conference Room same address below**. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
- The **National Transmission Corporation** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the allocated Bidder or Bidders.

*National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region*  
Mr. Armando N. Ochao, SAC Chairman  
M4AD Office, G/F TransCo Main Bldg.  
Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BR Road  
Dinaman, Quezon City  
Tel No (832) 9812205/(832) 9812241  
Fax No (832) 93228432  
Website: [www.transco.ph](http://www.transco.ph)

[Sgd.] ARMANDO N. OCHOA  
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee



## Customs tasked to raise bulk of increase in revenues

**By Michelle V. Remo**

**THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE IS POISED TO RAISE** the government's revenue-collection target next year to bring back the tax effort to levels prior to the Asian financial crisis.

A government official said that instead of the originally programmed revenue collection of P1.113 trillion for 2007, a higher target of P1.124 trillion is being considered by the DOF.

The P11-billion increase in the target would be

shouldered by the Bureau of Customs (BOC), which will be tasked with collecting P231.1 billion in duties and value-added taxes (VAT)

The BOC's revenue target for 2007 will also be 17 percent higher than the P231.1 billion that the agency should collect this year. The BOC is the second-biggest revenue earner for the government among line agencies.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), the biggest revenue contributor for the government, will be assigned to generate P793.3 billion next year. This is 17-percent higher than the P675.4-billion target this year.

The DOF official said that with the increase in the revenue target, the government could attain the desired tax-effort level more quickly.

The government has set a goal of attaining a tax effort of at least 17 percent, which was last achieved in 1997. Starting 1998, following the Asian financial crisis, the tax effort fell every year, reaching 12.4 percent in 2004.

Although the Philippines was considered the least affected by the crisis, the resulting decline in economic out-

put resulted in the decline in tax collection.

The tax effort slightly increased to 12.7 percent last year, and is expected to rise to 14.6 percent this year, to 15.7 percent next year, and to 16.1 percent in 2008.

The tax effort is the ratio between taxes and duties collected by the government to the country's gross domestic product (GDP). It determines whether the government is able to generate the supposed additional taxes and duties amid higher economic growth.

The official said that while the original revenue-collection program for the medium term reflected annual increase, the growth target should be higher to achieve the 17-percent tax-effort target earlier than expected.

The government has been reminded time and again by foreign creditors and credit-rating agencies on the need to become more aggressive in shoring up revenue collection to quickly fix its fiscal position and eventually boost economic growth.

Credit-rating firm Fitch Ratings earlier noted that the government's revenue collection was one of the lowest in Asia. The credit-rating firm said that increasing revenue collection was the more prudent way of reducing the government's budget deficit than cutting expenditures.

## Monitor tax perks, BIR urged

**THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE** should forge a deal with concerned agencies to get a periodic report of the status of tax- and duty-free privileges given to businesses.

This was suggested by the National Tax Research Center (NTRC), which said the government could better address huge leakages arising from the abuse of fiscal incentives if the BIR would be furnished with a regular report on the incentives status of companies.

The NTRC, tasked with conducting studies and providing recommendations on tax-related issues, said in a paper that the BIR should convince government agencies that grant fiscal incentives to provide a regular report on which companies were still entitled to fiscal incentives or those with expired incentives.

Estimates showed that the government was losing close to P300 billion a year due to the granting of incentives. The amount included legitimate incentives and those fraudulently claimed by businesses whose incentives have already expired.

The NTRC said there should be a communication line between the BIR and concerned agencies to ensure that the government only granted incentives to those who were legitimately covered by tax and duty perks.

Major government agencies granting fiscal incentives include the Board of Investment (BOI) and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza).

BOI grants income tax holidays, among other incentives, to firms included in the Investment Priorities Plan (IPP), a list of industries considered priority by the government.

Peza grants incentives to exporters located in economic zones. These companies are only required to pay a 5-percent tax on gross income in lieu of all other taxes.

Michelle V. Remond



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BEAUTY begins  
with good health /C3

## LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

sms feedback: inquirer lfe name/age/hlly/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

MONDAY ARTS &amp; BOOKS • TUESDAY FITNESS • WEDNESDAY 2BU • THURSDAY FOOD • FRIDAY FASHION &amp; BEAUTY

## EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

## Standing one-arm row

STRENGTHENS THE BACK OF  
the shoulders, sides of the back,  
and the biceps

Equipment:

Dumbbells

Exercise technique:

1. Stand with your left leg in front and the right leg behind.
2. Hold the dumbbell in your right

hand. Lean forward from the hip  
and support your upper body with  
your left hand on your left thigh.

3. Lift dumbbell by drawing  
shoulder blade toward spine and  
bending elbow.
4. Keep elbow close to torso.

5. Slowly lower weight by  
straightening arm back toward  
floor.
6. Do all repetitions on one side,  
then the other.

## Performance tips:

1. Keep your shoulders facing forward. Avoid rotating at the waist.
2. Pull in the abdominal muscles to prevent the lower back from arching or sagging as you lift the weight.

3. Don't let your head drop toward the floor. Don't look up to avoid arching your neck.
4. Lift the weight by squeezing the muscles at the side of your back and shoulders rather than pulling with your hand.

5. You will also feel a stretch in the calf of the leg behind.

## Repetitions:

Do 12-15 repetitions per side.

Making exercise  
safe for youWELL AND  
GOOD

Tina Juan



FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, FITNESS PROFESSIONALS drew up a list of "contraindicated" exercises. The list was an overreaction to numerous injuries resulting from the fitness craze in the '70s and '80s.

Today, the fitness industry is more mature. It knows reality is more complicated than just having a list of "good" and "bad" exercises. What is contraindicated for one person may be perfectly fine for another.

In other words, there are no contraindicated exercises, just contraindicated people. An exercise can be safe or unsafe depending on who is doing it.

The politically correct word these days is "risky," indicating that an exercise not only may require a higher level of fitness and skill, but also carries a higher degree of risk.

An example of a risky exercise is the stiff-legged deadlift. The exercise should be done only by someone with a strong back, flexible hamstrings, and almost perfect execution. It is definitely not for a novice exerciser. It is not even appropriate for an advanced exerciser with a weak back or tight hamstrings.

## Risk-benefit ratio

The trick to enjoying the benefits of exercise while minimizing the risk is to assess the

risk-benefit ratio of all exercises. The benefit should always outweigh the risk.

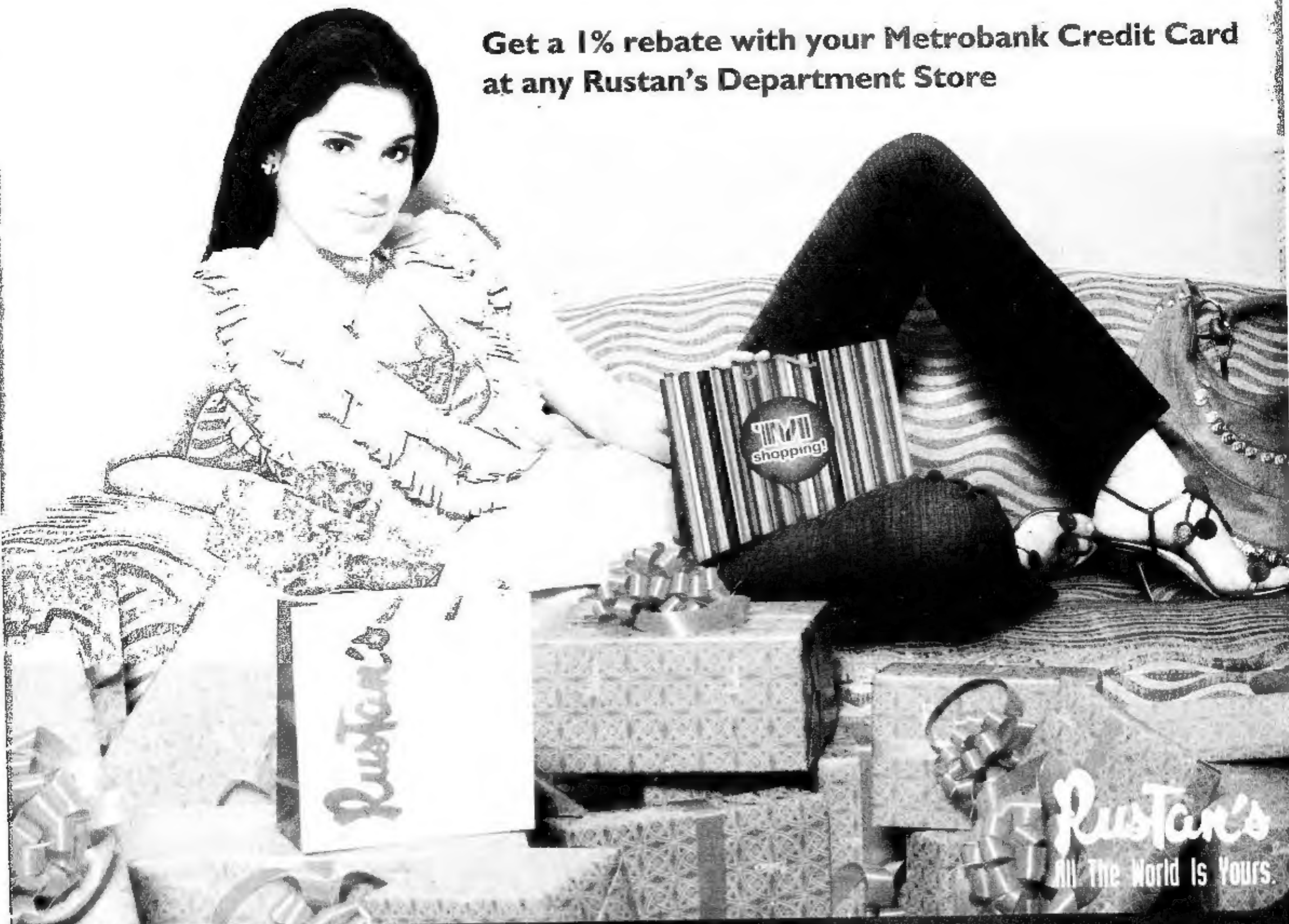
Athletes take great risks for a gold medal or a juicy endorsement contract. For them, the "benefit" outweighs the risk. The average person who simply wants to be fit and healthy should not take the same risks.

The more advanced the exercise, the more risky it usually is as it requires more strength, flexibility and skill. With the many kinds of exercises, choose those that match your own fitness level so the risk-benefit ratio will always be in your favor.

You might think pain is the best way to judge whether an exercise is unsafe or not. Unfortunately, pain does not always show up right away. Luckily, you don't have to wait until you are in agony to distinguish between a safe and unsafe exercise.

You can learn from the knowledge and ex-

MAKING/C4

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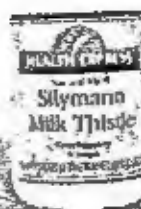


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INQUIRER duo, Tessa P.V. and moi, in front of the pizzeria of the Royal Promenade, all set to drive away in a vintage Morgan.



ABOVE: Our group got the impeccable service of the Filipino crew during cocktails on our first evening onboard the Freedom of the Seas.



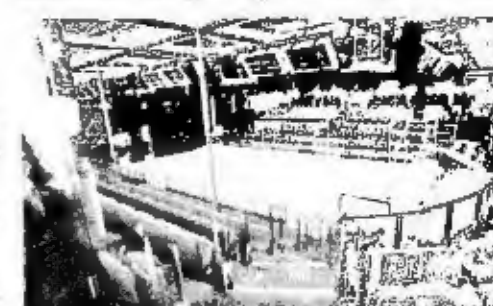
EVENINGS on a cruise ship can also be fun costume parties.



HOTSHOTS of Royal Caribbean: Ramia Rebbapragada and Maria Sastro



THE FOUR-BEDROOM Presidential Family Suite has a dining area, jacuzzi and private deck



THE multipurpose ice-skating rink

## Enjoying my Freedom to cruise the seas



CHILD-friendly fantasy swimming pool



BROADWAY musical productions are presented every night at the 1,350-seat Arcadia Theater.



ADDICT Mobile famillie: brand manager Luis Ang, Paolo Gonzalez, and endorsers Kelly Misa, Tim Yap and Cristina Garcia

**B**EFORE I LEFT MANILLE I MADE A promise to myself, "I will not gain weight on this cruise." I tried my best to be disciplined, but with all the excellent food served in all the resto outlets, especially at the elegant dining room, where one had a choice of the excellently prepared seven-course menu, from aperitif to the main course and desserts, I decided, what the heck, forget about calorie-counting—for a couple of days, at least. I treated my taste buds to food, glorious food, on the Freedom of the Seas. It was really freedom time.

After watching the Circus of the Seas, a traditional parade paying tribute to the glorious circus parades of the past, we toured the six fabulous familie-focused state-rooms, including the Presidential Family Suites. The suites are perfect if you're traveling with your familie or gang. Whether you're a party of six, eight or even 14, there is something for your budget.

And believe me, they didn't look like suites at all—they were more like condominiums! They even had huge balconies with jacuzzis. Wow! On our last night, we had a great dinner. Afterward we rushed to our stateroom, which had all the amenities one could find at home—flat TV, spacious shower and toilet; DVD set—you name it, they have it. Plus the to-die-for bed, with its luxurious bed sheets and pillow cases that make you want to stay in bed all day, dahlings.

Our suitcases had to be out of our cabin by midnight for collection for our disembarkation at 8:30 the next morning, so it was an early night for us, but not for adorable Tessa, who still took a look-see at the Casino Royal and watched the fantastic ice-skate show that night.

### Beautiful memories

When we left Southampton, we watched the ship vanish from the horizon as we made our way back to London for an overnight stay and a day of last-minute shopping. (We were to go back to Manila on KLM.)

I recalled what the dashing Richard Faim,

Royal Caribbean chair and chief executive officer, said: "We chose the name Freedom of the Seas because it is all about freedom of choice. Freedom to explore. Freedom to relax. Freedom to make one's own holiday plans reflective of one's own tastes and interest."

Without a doubt, dahlings, Freedom of the Seas is truly a distinguished masterpiece of maritime architecture, an incredible visual sensation, decorated in true, understated opulent elegance.

### WITHOUT BATTLING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using Kodak EasyShare



June 4, sailing from Miami to Cozumel, Mexico; Georgetown; Grand Cayman; Montego Bay; Jamaica; and Royal Caribbean's exclusive private destination, Labadee, Hispaniola.

Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. is a global cruise company that operates Royal Caribbean International and Celebrity Cruises. It is represented in the Philippines by Arpan Air Inc., the sister company of Baron Travel Corp.

For more info on the Freedom of the Seas, consult your travel agent, or Arpan Air Inc. at 8922703 and 8943957, or e-mail rylcaribbeanarpanair.com.ph.

Who wants to disembark when one's traveling on the best destination on earth?

Yes, dahlings, with Royal Caribbean, you will definitely have the freedom to explore while discovering the world. It's your opportunity to do something new and different, things you have yet to experience aboard a ship. It's freedom at its best!

### 'In heat' in Bora

The gorgeous island of Boracay was like Grand Central Station with launchings, concerts and other activities taking place one af-

ter another, palanggas.

No sooner had moi taken off than I was headed back again, storming Bora for the launch of Addict Mobile's scorching "In Heat 2006" summer campaign, palanggas.

The Addict Mobile campaign wasn't a one-off event but a series of happenings all over the island, merging technology and entertainment. Addict Mobile took their service to the next step with the launch of Addict 3G.

"Simply put, 3G allows one to keep in touch with (his/her) circle through video calling, high-speed Internet (just as fast as DSL) and video streaming," the press materials said. Needless to say, Addict showed us how easy it was to use 3G via demos in every bash they hosted, dahlings.

With the new cool endorsers out in full force—PDI's Tim Yap, gorgeous Cristina Garcia, smart Borgy Manotoc, Kelly Misa and handsome Derek Ramsey for Addict Mobile; and Nicole Hernandez, soft-spoken Brent Javier and stunning beauty Georgina Wilson for AMP (Addict Mobile Pre-paid)—Addict was definitely the hot leader of the party pack in Boracay that week, palanggas.

Not only did subscribers get free tickets, free drinks and access to the VIP areas, they also had the privilege to choose parties that best fit their taste. "Parties in Heat" was the main attraction, but the "Deals in Heat," offering the latest must-have handsets at lower postpaid plans, and the awesome "Privileges in Heat," giving VIP access to subscribers in all parties, were just too irresistible.

This In Heat 2006 campaign was powered by Addict Mobile, AMP Smart 3G, in cooperation with Motorola, Nokia, Chikka, Big Fish, Eventscape and Uno Magazine.



REFRESHING beauty Anne Curtis



THEA Froekjaer, JM Rodriguez and top DJ Manolet Dario



MICHELLE Pamintuan and Georgina Wilson



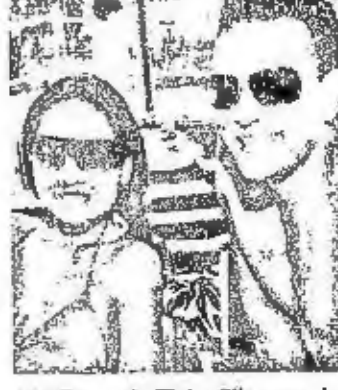
JUAN Elizalde and Bianca Araneta



CHEESE Ledesma and Joel Ong



JACQUES Dupasquier and eye-catching model Jackie Inaferio



HOT couple Tisha Silang and Geoff Rodriguez

## Healthy inside and out

**HEALTH EXPERTS AGREE** that to build a strong foundation for well-being you have to get healthy.

The prescription is the same: balanced diet, exercise, relaxation, sleep and supplementation. But how and why should you start?

### Caring for the inside

Every day, your body's 63 trillion cells are bombarded by the enemy—free radicals. These are unstable molecules from the air you breathe, the food you eat and the water/liquids you drink.

Free radical damage, if left unchecked, will damage/destroy your cells and weaken your immune system hastening aging and causing disease.

So, the more protection you have through the intake of antioxidants that fight free radicals, the better you are able to stay healthy.

And because beauty also depends on the state of your health, you have to adopt a healthy lifestyle if you want to be attractive and appealing.

### Nutritional plus

In 1998, the Journal of Medicinal Foods studied and evaluated liquid vitamins and minerals and found them effective in health management. In 2002, the Journal of the American Medical Association published the results of almost 40 years of research on the relationship between vitamins and diseases. They indicated that vitamin deficiencies were associated with chronic diseases like cancer, coronary heart disease and osteoporosis (go to [www.virtualhealthinfo.com](http://www.virtualhealthinfo.com)).

The big vitamin helpers versus disease included Vitamin C, E, folic acid, B6, B12. At the Gifu Pharmaceutical University in Japan, a study showed that nutrients from mangosteen (fruit and rind), which has xanthones, had strong antibacterial effect and medicinal and antioxidant properties.

Several mangosteen-based supplements are now available. One of them is Vemma that has formulated separately liquid-minerals and mangosteen plus fortified with 12 full-spectrum vitamins, the first of its kind.

The Vemma Nutrition Program is in the prestigious Physicians Desk Reference, a

### INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino



listing of nonprescription drugs and dietary supplements used by healthcare professionals. Call ARGS at 6873016 or 6873018.

The power of juicing cannot be underestimated. You can make it a daily habit to take at least one fruit or vegetable juice a day for a healthy start.

### Pamper the outside

Gone are the days when adding color to your face means pinching your cheeks until they blush and biting your lips till they are red. Beauty enthusiasts know there are easier and safer ways to achieve color. And the search is on for the best, most effective products.

Saving us time and effort, Marie Claire Phils. joined the search for the best cosmetic product. The Prix d'Excellence de la Beaute 2006 is a 20-year-old international research

by an international panel of beauty experts. A local search, where several magazines were represented, announced nine product winners.

### Anti-aging

• Eluage Crème and Gal by Avene uses hyaluronic acid to enhance the production of this same substance in skin to improve its elasticity.

• Platinum by Lancôme was designed for women in their 60s. Rich in calcium to combat "dermoporosis" (reduction of calcium).

• Sensitive Nivea Visage, a calming day cream for sensitive skin that is fragrance-, color- and alcohol-free.

### Cosmetics

• Volume Shocking by D'Oreal Paris is the new generation mascara with 16 patents. Its two-step process guarantees lashes that are double in volume. Available in July.

• Dream Matte Mousse by Maybelline, designed for the modern age, it is for the woman on the run, a foundation that doesn't run.

• Liquid Bronze by Clarins—achieve

that tanned look even if you stay out of the sun, a self-tanning lotion.

• Rouge Pure Shine by Yves St. Laurent—the classic red lipstick that promises more color than a lip gloss.

• Kiss Kiss by Guerlain—stylish lipstick perfumed with violet and red fruits.

### Home treatments

Your bathroom is a virtual beauty corner, and your kitchen your source of natural health remedies. Open your refrigerator and find something good for you. Let's try the cucumber. Eaten raw or juiced, it is effective in cleansing the body and is beneficial to those with diabetes, according to health enthusiasts.

As a facial mask, blender or mash and mix with one tablespoon of milk (fresh is better but canned will do). Apply chilled on the face. Cut cucumber round slices and apply on the eyes. Relax. Put your feet up. Listen to music. Think happy thoughts. Rinse after five to seven minutes.

Affirm now: "Happiness is a state of mind. And I claim happiness now."

Love and light!



# Revelations on the Gospel of Judas

Part II

IN CODEX PAGE 40, "THE CONFLICT between the Gnostics and the orthodox church is reflected in how Jesus sees the church and its questionable doctrine. The disciples have a vision of the temple, which Jesus explains in allegorical terms. He compares what they see in the temple to the wrong message coming from the emerging mainstream church. The disciples, he explains, are akin to a temple priest, or 'minister of error,' one who expounds inaccurate teachings."

The big mistake the emerging Christian church made then was to see only the outer or exoteric aspects of Christ's words and teachings, completely ignoring the hidden or esoteric meaning.

That's why the accepted teaching lacks substance, leading to erroneous knowledge, although the church insists it is the only correct interpretation.

By crushing any form of dissent or opposition, the mainstream church succeeded in consolidating its power within the hierarchy of the priesthood. Only they can interpret the teachings. All the rest are heretical.

But the people who wrote down the

Gospel of Judas and the other Gnostic writers did not think they were being heretical. In fact, it was the other way around.

## Deviation

Followers of Christ called Gnostics considered the teachings of the mainstream church heretical. In their belief, it was the Orthodox Church that deviated from the true teachings of Christ.

Codex page 56 says, "...You will exceed all of them. For you will sacrifice the man that clothes me."

In this passage, Christ described how Judas would rank among the other disciples after Jesus' death.

"According to the Gospel of Judas, the savior is the spiritual being inside Jesus who lives in a spiritual dimension. The physical being of Jesus is a simple covering, much like a clothing that the Spiritual Savior wears in the world. Jesus is essentially telling Judas that, by betraying him—knowingly and at his request—he is being a true friend and allowing the man Jesus to die, so that the Savior can be free to return to his home in heaven. In Gnostic tradition, Jesus neither sees his death as a tragedy, nor as a necessary act to save the world from its sins."

## INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco



No wonder the Catholic Church in the Philippines is denouncing the Gospel of Judas as heretical and is downplaying its significance.

But the church, by doing this, only arouses the curiosity of the faithful who have been conditioned merely to obey the dictates of the church and not to question its pronouncements. The church indeed has a lot of explaining to do.

## Shocking

As if these new data about Judas Iscariot were not enough, the entity Gabbey brought out more shocking revelations that, although they could not be independently verified, were at least consistent with Gnostic and New Age beliefs.

The entity Gabbey revealed to Jun Aquiatan the following pieces of secret information about Judas Iscariot that

were completely unknown before:

"The account in the life of Judas during the time of Christ was not written by Judas himself but by people who knew the story through Judas' disciples."

According to Gabbey, "Judas did not kill himself. He just withdrew from the rest of the apostles. He went away and formed a group that also preached about Christ."

The news that he killed himself was circulated "so that Judas' act would be forgotten. It was Judas' men who circulated the news, not the apostles," according to Gabbey.

Aquiata asked why there were no records or documents of Judas and his group preaching about Christ.

Gabbey replied documents would be found later regarding this. "In fact, some fragments have already been found, but not yet shown to the world. These documents, together with others, would really shock the world."

"Did Judas really betray Jesus or was he really asked by Jesus, in order to fulfill his mission?" Jun asked Gabbey.

## Brothers

Gabbey said the initial agreement was reached by Judas and Jesus in one

of their past lives when they were brothers.

"Jesus, as true man, had a human soul that kept reincarnating. When this human soul had already perfected itself after several reincarnations, it was used as a human vehicle for the Divine to manifest in this world. That Divine Being was called Christ. Remember that God is a spirit. He has no material body. The Divine spirit, who was Christ, used Jesus as human vehicle to be in this world."

"Jesus and Judas... were (in a previous life) the only children of a couple who lived in Egypt. They were orphaned at an early age and survived through farming. Due to their closeness, they swore they would help each other and, if one should be in need, the other would help even at the expense of his own life."

"Now, when they met again during the time of Christ, that agreement was revived. But it was only Jesus who remembered it, having the power to read past lives, while Judas did not know this. So, Jesus asked Judas' help to fulfill his mission."

(To be concluded)

Next week: Secrets revealed by Jesus to Judas

## Making exercise safe for you

From page C1

perience of fitness professionals who, through the years, have identified certain observation factors that make an exercise unsafe.

### Too fast

This doesn't mean you should never do a fast exercise. The rule is to be always in full control of your movements. Compare a skilled boxer with a person just learning to box. The boxer's hands are a blur as he goes into a flurry of punches. The beginner is awkward and uncoordinated.

If the beginner tries to move as fast as the expert, his joints will take a beating because he does not have the core control to stop the extra momentum created by his flailing arms.

Even simple weightlifting exercises can be unsafe when excessive momentum is applied. So always remember to move at a speed that you can properly control. With relatively heavy weights, that is usually at slow to moderate speed.

### Too soon

If you give your body just the right amount of challenge, it will adapt by getting stronger and fitter. But if you challenge it before it is ready, even a basic exercise will cause an injury.

Many beginners get hurt because they try to do advanced exercises. Experienced exercisers can also get injured if they attempt advanced exercises not suited to their fitness skill. For example, the risk of injury is high for a cyclist trying to do an advanced yoga class, no matter how fit she is.

### Too much

Majority of exercise injuries are due to overuse, primarily because of too much exercise. You can end up with knee surgery because of excessive hours of cycling or running. The second reason is doing only one kind of exercise. Instead of spreading out the stress of exercise, it is continuously concentrated in one or two joints.

### Too heavy

Bicep curls are a simple and safe exercise. But when done with weights that are too heavy, it becomes an unsafe exercise, putting stress on the lower back and the elbows. You can have the safest exercise program in the world designed for you, but if you lift weights that are too heavy, every single exercise in your program will become dangerous.

### Not appropriate

If you have a structural abnormality or past history of joint injury, some

exercises will never be appropriate for you. A shoulder stand is too risky for a person with neck issues because it flattens the normal curvature of the neck and places too much weight and stress on the delicate neck bones.

### Wrong execution

Abdominal curls are a pretty straightforward exercise but many people do it wrong and end up hurting their necks, instead of working on the abdominal muscles. Wrong execution is the reason for many exercise injuries. That's why it is so important to get professional instruction—ideally in person but, at the very least, through books or videos.

### Unnatural movement

Behind-the-neck pull-downs and behind-the-neck military presses are examples of unnatural joint movements. These types of exercises go against the structural design of the shoulder joint. If you have to lift a heavy box overhead, you would not do it behind your neck because it is unnatural.

The body has its own wisdom. If we just listen, we won't get hurt.

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**What are the causes and risk factors of cervical cancer?**

The precise cause of cervical cancer is not known, but the risk factors believed to be related to its development are following: multiple sexual partners, early sexual activity, history of sexually transmitted infection, history of such infection in the sexual partner, smoking history (40 pack years), HIV, HPV (Human Papilloma Virus), low socioeconomic class, race (black vs white), and use of oral contraceptive pills. It is therefore important that women practice prevention. For primary prevention, we mean avoidance of the risk factors mentioned above. So primary prevention would include having a monogamous sexual relationship between husband and wife, delay in onset of sexual intercourse (there is a greater risk of cervical cancer for those starting sexual intercourse at age 14-15 years than those over 20), use of barrier contraceptives, and prompt and adequate treatment of sexually transmitted infection. For secondary prevention, women are advised to have regular screening: annual conventional cytology (pap smear) then at or after age 30, after 3 consecutive normal smears, may decrease screening interval to every 2-3 yrs.

**Nichy**

This week's answer to our feature question on Cervical Cancer was provided by our Medical Coordinator at Luzon Medical Center, Dr. Ma. Sidome Pastoral, Dr. Pastoral or "Dr. Babette" as she is commonly address by her patients, specializes in Gynecology and a Junior Member of the Philippine Obstetrical Gynecological Society. She took her specialization training at the Armed Forces of the Philippines Memorial Medical Center. She is married to a surgeon, Dr. Antonio Pastoral Jr. and blessed with a child. She spends her free time cooking exquisite dishes.

MEDICard members may seek consultation services from Dr. Pastoral at Luzon Medical Center located at 41c Arthur Highway, Dagupan City, from Mondays to Sundays, 9 in the morning up to 4 in the afternoon.

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the magazine and also expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at [nicky@medicardph.com](mailto:nicky@medicardph.com) for your inquiries on health matters.

**MEDICard PHILIPPINES, INC.** 9th Floor Sagittarius Building H.V. dela Costa Street, Sagrado Village, Makati City 1227  
Telephone: 884-9999 Fax No: 884-5733 815-3855 Text: May in MEDICard and send to 2344 (Globe & Touch) Mobile: 4927 (Smart & 7-11 Text) E-mail: [nicky@medicardph.com](mailto:nicky@medicardph.com) Website: [www.medicardph.com](http://www.medicardph.com)

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**Cracked Whole Wheat: The Little Big Fighter**

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Wheat bread is popular among the diet and figure conscious, and health enthusiasts. More often than not, the value most recognized in wheat bread is fiber. Indeed, whole wheat bread is an excellent source of insoluble fiber that cleans the digestive system and helps reduce bad cholesterol in the system. But there's more to wheat bread than just fiber, especially if it contains cracked whole wheat like Gardania Whole Wheat Bun.

Cracked whole wheat means the whole wheat kernel is used; the bran, germ and endosperm. All these are known to be rich in nutrients that are included in the whole wheat flour used in Gardania Whole Wheat Bun. To fully appreciate the nutrition in wheat kernels, it's best to know its anatomy:

- Bran** - The multi-layered outer skin of the kernel. It contains antioxidants, iron, zinc, copper, magnesium, B vitamins, fiber and valuable nutrients.
- Germ** - The embryo. It contains B vitamins, vitamin E, antioxidants, valuable nutrient and unsaturated fats.
- Endosperm** - The germ's food supply. It contains starch, carbohydrates, proteins, vitamins and minerals.

**Nutritious**

By using the whole kernel, all the nutrition found in wheat is harnessed to lend the body its full nutritive value. All the fiber, valuable nutrients, antioxidants, vitamins and minerals, carbohydrates and unsaturated fats come together not only to keep one's figure trim, but also to have the potential to give support to the body against certain diseases. Small but mighty, as they say, the nutritious cracked whole wheat kernel is truly a big

**The difference is in cracked whole wheat.**

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So to help keep the digestive system healthy, aid in the removal and rejuvenation of body cells, and promote immunity against certain ailments, get into the really soft cracked whole wheat goodness of Gardania Whole Wheat Bun. It's whole health for the whole body everyday!